

FOI REF: 25/498

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1st August 2025

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

Please disclose the following regarding the Trust(s) histopathology departments(s):

1. Is your histopathology department part of a cluster/consolidated network?

No, we are part of South 7 Pathology network, also known as Sussex Pathology Network, which is working collaboratively with University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust and Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust on some digital and procurement workstreams, but we are not a formalised network and are operationally independent.

2. If so, please list the other hospitals in this network and the associated Trust(s)

[Please see above.](#)

3. What is the central/hub hospital in your network?

[Not applicable.](#)

4. When did the process of consolidation begin?

[Not applicable.](#)

5. When did the consolidation process complete, or is it still ongoing?

[Not applicable.](#)

6. What is the management structure of the consolidated network?

[Each hospital is operationally independent and works for their sovereign Trusts.](#)

7. What is the organisational structure of the consolidated network?

Collaborative.

8. If not part of a cluster/consolidated network, is there a plan for this in the future?

Not currently, the operational business case is due to be written still.

Provide all this information in electronic format, such as Excel or PDF.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net