

FOI REF: 25/523

5th September 2025

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

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:

We are researching histology/cellular pathology activity in NHS organisations and the use of locums and outsourcing to report these.

For the period April 1st to December 2024, please provide the following information:

- 1. How many whole-time equivalent histopathology consultants (as defined by being on the GMC specialist register for pathology) were employed by the authority at 31/12/2024.**

[7.56 wte.](#)

- 2. How many histology cases were reported in the following period, overall and by the following sub-specialties**

-	Dermatology	8712
-	gastro-intestinal	8085
-	urology	1218
-	gynaecology	3520
-	breast	745
-	thoracic	277
-	head and neck	154
-	other	3232
-	total cases reported	25403

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3. How many of the total cases given above were reported by

- a. consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract Programmed Activities or PAs.**

4446.

- b. consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.**

We do not hold this information.

- c. locum consultants working for the authority**

6441.

- d. external reporting companies.**

14362.

Please provide a total number of cases and the number reported by each of the following:

- Unilabs	0
- HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs	0
- SBS (Source Bioscience/LD Path)	5569
- Cellular Pathology Services Limited	0
- Diagnexia	8793
- Digital Pathology Partners	0
- Cytel	0
- Poundbury Cancer Institute	0
- Medica	0
- external reporting companies total	14362

4. How much did the authority spend on each of the following during the period

- a. consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract Programmed Activities or PAs. (salary plus NI plus pension contribution)**

£1,030,689.

- b. consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.**

£16,711.

- c. locum consultants working for the authority**

£0.

Cont.../

d. external reporting companies.

Section 17 Notice of Refusal

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested, it is applying a Section 43(2) exemption in relation to this part of the request as the release of the information is likely to prejudice its commercial interests.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

We have concluded that information broken down to the level requested could cause harm to the Trust as this could distort the market-place and therefore, result in the Trust not obtaining best value for money.

In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

Please provide a total spend and the spend with each of the following:

- Unilabs
- HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs
- SBS (Source Bioscience/LD Path)
- Cellular Pathology Services Limited
- Diagnexia
- Digital Pathology Partners
- Cytel
- Poundbury Cancer Institute
- Medica
- external reporting companies total

Section 43(2) applied, please see above.

5. Please provide TATs for

a. Molecular testing services for NHS histopathology work

We do not hold this information. This information is held by the Genomic Laboratory Hubs.

b. Reporting histopathology in cancer cases

69% in 10 days.

i. Please provide list of fines paid for missing cancer TAT targets

None.

6. Please provide current backlog of cancer services, by volume and speciality?

There is currently no backlog, therefore not applicable.

7. Please provide list of pending or closed court cases and the cost of these to the NHS?

The information requested above is collated by NHS Resolution and is available via their website which can be accessed using the link below:

[Annual statistics - NHS Resolution](#)

For further information, Freedom of Information requests to NHS Resolution can be made via the link below:

<https://resolution.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information/>

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