

1st April 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

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

Further to your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, I now set out our answers to your specific questions, and any clarifications sought and provided, as follows:

We are researching histology / cellular pathology activity in NHS organisations, and the use of locums and internal and external reporting arrangements (including outsourcing and digital / remote reporting) to deliver these services.

For the period April 2025 - Present, or the closest 12-month period for which data is available. Please provide the below information:

1. 1.1 How many whole-time equivalent histopathology consultants (as defined by being on the GMC specialist register for pathology) were employed by the trust as of 31/12/25

5.85 whole-time equivalent (wte).

1.2 Of these, how many WTE posts were:

- **Substantive consultants**

2.00 wte.

- **Long term locum consultants (contracts \geq 3 months)**

3.85 wte.

- **Other medical staff undertaking consultant level histopathology reporting (please specify grade)**

2. How many histology cases were reported for patients treated by the Trust in the period, overall and by the following subspecialties:

- **Dermatology** 10667
- **Gastro intestinal** 7597
- **Genitourinary** 1754
- **Gynaecology** 3123
- **Breast** 1053

- Oral Not applicable
- Head and neck 1262
- Other (please specify if possible) Not applicable
- Total histology cases reported 32201

3. Of the total histology cases reported in the period, please give the percentage that were reported as:

a. General histopathology (non subspecialist service)

It is not possible to split the figure, as the data is not available.

b. Sub specialist histopathology

It is not possible to split the figure, as the data is not available.

4. 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.

This information is not recorded by the Trust.

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

This information is not recorded by the Trust.

c. Locum consultants working for the authority

This information is not recorded by the Trust.

d. External reporting companies.

19707

5. Please provide the total number of cases for each of the following providers, and for each provider the number of cases reported in the period, broken down by type of work: broken down by Pre-prepared material (glass) and/or Lab services (sample or block)

It is not possible to break down the numbers as requested, but overall numbers are included below.

- a. Unilabs Not applicable.
- b. HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs Not applicable.
- c. Source LD Path (previously Source Bioscience, and LD Path limited) 12503
- d. Cellular Pathology Services Limited Not applicable.
- e. Diagnexia 7204
- f. Digital Pathology Partners Not applicable.

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|
| g. | Cyted (including their subsidiary Pathognomics) | Not applicable. |
| h. | Poundbury Cancer Institute | Not applicable. |
| i. | Medica | Not applicable. |
| j. | Other provider (please specify) | Not applicable. |
| k. | External reporting companies total | 19707 |

6. Please provide a total spend in GBP with each of the following in relation to the reporting of histology cases:

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

£478,112.

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

£189,400.

- c. **Locum consultants working for the authority**

£519,852.

- d. **External reporting companies:**

We have assumed that this is a heading for questions 6e to 6n. Please let us know if this is not the case.

- e. **Unilabs**

£0.

- f. **HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs**

£0.

- g. **Source LD Path**

£298,044.

- h. **Cellular Pathology Services Limited**

£0.

- i. **Diagnexia**

£320,361.

j. Digital Pathology Partners

£0.

k. Cyted (including their subsidiary Pathognomics)

£0.

l. Poundbury Cancer Institute

£0.

m. Medica

£0.

n. Other provider (please specify)

Source BioScience – £1,680,221

7. How many vacancies does the Trust currently have for consultant pathologists and in what sub-specialities are these vacancies. If “general” please state.

Pathology Consultant Vacancies as at February 2026 (WTE)

Biochemistry	0
Histopathology	0.8
Microbiology	0
Haematology	0

I trust this information is helpful in its detail or explanation however, if you are dissatisfied with the response, then you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to seek an internal review, please write to the Freedom of Information Team at esh-tr.foi@nhs.net quoting the above FOI reference number, within 40 working days. Please note the Trust is not obliged to accept a request for an internal review after this time period.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information (FOI) Team
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
0300 131 4716
Core Hours of Business: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm