



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-331

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 19th August 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding histology/cellular pathology.

**Q1 We are researching the practice of histology/cellular pathology in NHS organisations, specifically focusing on outsourcing of reporting activities and including the use of locums.**

**For the period 2023, June 1st to 2024, May 30th, (12 months in total) please provide the following information:**

**1. How many full-time equivalent histopathology consultants (as defined by being on the GMC specialist register for pathology) were employed by the authority at 30/05/2024?**

A1 There were 16.5 WTE consultants in post, all based at the hub laboratory at RSUH, with 5.0 FTE vacancies (across all subspecialties).

**Q2 How many histology cases were reported in the following period, overall and by the following sub-specialties:**

**Specialty:**

- Dermatology
- Gastro-intestinal
- Urology
- Gynaecology
- Breast
- Thoracic
- Head and Neck
- Other
- Total cases reported

A2 Please see below:

Specialty	Number
Dermatology	18880
Gastro-intestinal	26849

Urology	3867
Gynaecology	12072
Breast	5214
Thoracic	1335
Head and Neck	2743
Other	2804
Total cases reported	73764

- Q3 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 Physician Associates?
  - b. consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.
  - c. locum consultants working for the authority
  - d. external reporting companies. Please provide a total number of cases and the number reported by each of the following:

**Speciality:**

- Dermatology
- Gastro-intestinal
- Urology
- Gynaecology
- Breast
- Thoracic
- Head and Neck
- Other

**A3 Please See below:**

	a	b	c	d
Dermatology	10943	2490	120	5326
Gastro-intestinal	15563	3542	171	7574
Urology	2242	510	25	1091
Gynaecology	6997	1592	77	3405
Breast	3022	688	33	1471
Thoracic	687	155	0	331
Head and Neck	2521	383	0	0
Other	1626	370	18	791
Total cases reported	43601	9730	444	19989

- Q4 How much did the authority spend (in GBP) 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)
  - b. consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.
  - c. locum consultants working for the authority

- d. external reporting companies
- o Please provide a total spend and the spend with each of the following:
  - Unilabs
  - HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs
  - Source LD Path (previously Source Bioscience, and LD Path limited)
  - Cellular Pathology Services Limited
  - Diagnexia
  - Digital Pathology Partners
  - Cytel (including their subsidiary Pathognomics)
  - Poundbury Cancer Institute
  - Medica
  - Other

A4 Please see below: –  
a) Approx £2.54M

b) Approx. £461K

c) Approx. £25K

d) Please see below:

External reporting company	April 2022-2023	April 2023-2024
Unilabs	175	0
HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs	331,232.92	0
Source LD Path (previously Source Bioscience, and LD Path limited)	1,785,454.93	1,874,694.33
Cellular Pathology Services Limited	0	0
Diagnexia	0	0
Digital Pathology Partners	0	0
Cytel (including their subsidiary Pathognomics)	0	0
Poundbury Cancer Institute	0	0
Medica	0	0
Other	0	0

**Q5** During the period, what is the proportion of cellular pathology cases handled (partially or totally) by external companies for each of the following workflows?

- Only wet specimen outsourced
- Only blocks outsourced
- Only reporting outsourced
- Only wet specimen + blocks
- Only blocks+ reporting outsourced
- Wet specimen + blocks + reporting all outsourced

A5 Please see below:

Cellular Pathology Cases	%
Only wet specimen outsourced	0
Only blocks outsourced	6%
Only reporting outsourced	68%

Only wet specimen + blocks	0
Only blocks+ reporting outsourced	0
Wet specimen + blocks + reporting all outsourced	26%

**Q6 During the period, what is the TAT of cellular pathology cases handled partially or totally by external companies for each of the following workflows?**

- Only wet specimen outsourced
- Only Blocks outsourced
- Only Reporting outsourced
- Only Wet + blocks
- Only Blocks+ reporting outsourced
- Wet + Blocks + reporting all outsource

A6 This information is not held by the Trust. This data is provided by each individual external company. Refer to answer A4(d) which lists the suppliers we use.

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records