



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-311

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 13th August 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding LIMS

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

**Q1 I'd be grateful if you could please confirm the following information regarding the Trusts Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), the Trusts adoption of a Digital Pathology solution as well as some high-level departmental statistics across the Trust:**

**Please Note: Definitions of each solution type are provided at the bottom of this request.**

**LIMS - Information Request**  
**Current LIMS Supplier Name?**  
**Current LIMS System Name?**  
**Current LIMS Contract Commencement Date?**  
**Current LIMS Contract Expiration Date?**  
**Does the current LIMS allow for bidirectional information sharing?**  
**Does the current LIMS allow for image import?**

**A1** Information for: North Midlands and Cheshire Pathology Service; UHM (RSUH/County), Mid Cheshire Foundation Trust and East Cheshire NHS Trust.

Current LIMS Supplier Name: = Clinisys  
Current LIMS System Name: = Win Path Enterprise  
Current LIMS Contract Commencement Date:= 1.12.2019  
Current LIMS Contract Expiration Date: = 30.11.2029  
Does the current LIMS allow for bidirectional information sharing: =Yes  
Does the current LIMS allow for image import: = No

**Q2 Current Digital Pathology Solution**  
**Current Scanner Supplier Name?**  
**Current Viewer System Name and Provider?**  
**Contract Commencement Date?**  
**Contract Expiration Date?**

A2 See below:

Current Scanner Supplier Name: = Hamamatsu S360 x2 and S60 x1  
Current Viewer System Name and Provider: = Sectra IDS7  
Contract Commencement Date: = 1.11.22  
Contract Expiration Date? = 1.11.27

**Q3 If no Digital Pathology Solution is installed, can you please confirm the following:  
Does the Trust have plans to adopt a Digital Pathology solution in the next 2 years?**

A3 Not applicable refer to answer 2

**Q4 Trusts Departmental Statistics  
Can you please confirm the number of Pathology Departments across the Trust?**

A4 North Midlands and Cheshire Pathology Service has one histopathology department based at RSUH

**Q5 Can you please confirm the number of Pathology slides processed per annum?**

A5 Circa 530,000 Slides

**Q6 Can you please confirm the number of Pathology Consultants in full-time or contract employment across the Trust?**

**\*\*\*\*\* System Definitions \*\*\*\*\***

**Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) - A LIMS is a software system designed to support the operations of a laboratory. It helps manage and track samples, associated data, and laboratory workflows. LIMS is crucial in many types of labs, including research, clinical, pharmaceutical, environmental, and manufacturing labs.**

**Digital Pathology Solution - A Digital Pathology Solution is a technology platform that facilitates the digitisation, management, analysis, and sharing of pathology data. This system primarily involves converting traditional glass slide samples into high-resolution digital images, which can then be analysed using specialised software. Digital Pathology is increasingly used in clinical diagnosis, research, and education due to its numerous advantages over traditional methods.**

A6 16.51 FTE Consultant Pathologists

\*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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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

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