

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 23-778

6 December 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

1. Please table the hospitals or other acute sites currently submitting blood cultures and for each site-

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust

i) Are blood cultures incubated and/or processed on site or sent to a microbiology laboratory off site?

Incubated on site, processed off site.

ii) If incubated or processed off site, what is the distance in miles between the site and the offsite laboratory?

Bristol site: 3.1 miles

Weston site: 25 miles

iii) How many blood culture sets were submitted from each site in 2022/23?

Bristol site: 18260

Weston site: 3628

iv) Number of bed days for all patients per site

Occupied Beddays 2022/23:

Site	Occupied Bed days
Bristol Royal Hospital for Children	46,530

Bristol Eye Hospital	2,042
Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre	19,031
Bristol Royal Infirmary	188,890
St Michael's Hospital	31,123
Weston General Hospital	98,142
Grand Total	385,758

2. Does the Trust follow the UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations (SMI S12) in relation to Blood Cultures? YES/NO

Yes

3. Do you undertake formal compliance audits of the recommended pre-analytical standard for blood cultures of a four-hour TAT from collection to incubation? YES/NO

Yes

4. What percentage of blood culture sets achieved this standard in the year 2022/23 at each site.

Please see the table below with data from January 2023 until September 2023, and a 'snapshot' of two months data in 2022

Name of site	No of blood cultures received. June 2022 + Oct 2022	% achieving 4-hr TAT	No of blood cultures received. 1/1/23 – 30/09/23	% achieving 4-hr TAT	Delayed incubation reported Y/N
Weston General Hospital	394	94.4	3628	93.1	Y
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston BRI Site	4161	36.1	18260	56.4	Y

If full compliance with the pre analytical standard cannot be met, are clinicians made aware of the risk via a statement in the report on specimens which encountered delay?

No

5. What is the population served by the Trust?

We are able to obtain this information however we have decided to apply Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: <https://www.uhbw.nhs.uk/p/about-us/about-us>. Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information if it is already reasonably accessible and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

6. What was the total expenditure on laboratory services (directorate of pathology) as a percentage of total Trust expenditure in the year 2022/23?

1.79%

7. Please append a copy of your blood culture protocol or policy or other document which informs clinical staff when they should take a blood culture.

The Trust uses 'Care-flow vitals, whereby patient observations linked to NEWS2 scores automatically informed medical teams when blood culture sampling is indicated for a patient, based on clinical observations.

Trust clinical staff are trained to the Blood Culture Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) (please see the attached document).

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information

(such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust