

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 24-806**

14 November 2024

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. What is the size of your trust's serviceable population?**

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 on the Trust's website: [UHBW NHS - About the University Hospitals](#)

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.

**2. How many patients has the trust tested for the following clinical biochemical markers in the last 12 months?**

**a. C-reactive protein (CRP)**

Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

**b. High-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP)**

None. We do not offer this test.

**c. Lipoprotein-a (Lp(a))**

Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day

period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

**3. Is there a limit to the frequency of the following tests per patient?**

**a. C-reactive protein (CRP)**

No

**b. High-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP)**

Not applicable

**c. Lipoprotein-a (Lp(a))**

No

**4. Please provide the name and post code of all the pathology providers in your trust**

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust, BS2 8HP

**5. Do you outsource any testing to commercial labs? If yes, please provide the names of each commercial provider**

No

**6. Please answer the following questions for each pathology provider in your trust**

**7. Does the laboratory currently offer testing for the following?**

**a. C-reactive protein (CRP)**

Yes

**b. High-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP)**

No

**c. Lipoprotein-a (Lp(a))**

Yes

**8. What is the average turnaround time for an outpatient from blood sample collection to sharing of results for CRP and hs-CRP?**

This is not measured as only the turnaround time can be quantitated between the time it is requested in the laboratory and the time reported. Times of transport to the laboratory and the time waiting to be activated is unknown.

**9. Is CRP offered as a standalone test or part of a panel?**

Both

**10. Is hs-CRP offered as a standalone test or part of a panel?**

No

**11. What machines are used to conduct CRP testing in your laboratory?**

Beckman Coulter AU5800

**12. What machines are used to conduct hs-CRP testing in your laboratory?**

None, not applicable

**13. What is the lowest limit of detection (in mg/L) that you report for CRP?**

<1 mg/L

**14. What is the lowest limit of detection (in mg/L) that you report for hs-CRP?**

Not applicable

**15. How many requests for measurement of CRP did your laboratory complete in the last 12 months?**

368,787

**16. How many requests for measurement of hs-CRP did your laboratory complete in the last 12 months?**

None, not applicable

**17. What is the maximum number of CRP tests that your laboratory can conduct in one month?**

50,000

**18. What is the maximum number of hs-CRP tests that laboratory can conduct in one month?**

Not applicable

**19. What is the cost of running a single CRP test in your laboratory? Please provide a breakdown of cost of running the test and all-in cost considering operations, FTEs etc.**

Test price charged is 86p. Cost per reportable charged is commercially sensitive under the Managed Service Contract - this is commercially sensitive information and will not be shared at an organisational level. Section 43 of the FOI Act provides that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person.

Therefore, we are withholding this information at this time.

**20. What is the cost of running a single hs-CRP test in your laboratory? Please provide a breakdown of cost of running the test and all-in cost considering operations, FTEs etc.**

Not applicable

**21. How much are you reimbursed for a single CRP test in your laboratory?**

Block Contract

**22. How much are you reimbursed for a single hs-CRP test in your laboratory?**

Not applicable

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**