

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-926

11 December 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 not hold the information you are requesting

Please can I be provided with the below data regarding pathology services under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000?

- 1. Does the trust/UHB outsource wet surgical specimens?**
- 2. If so, how many specimens are outsourced per annum?**
- 3. What is the subspecialty of the outsourced specimens? E.g. Skin, Endoscopy etc. Please breakdown if possible.**
- 4. How much does the trust/UHB spend per annum on outsourced wet specimen processing? Please breakdown for the fiscal years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24.**
- 5. Does the trust report in house on wet processed specimens or is this done externally?**
- 6. Which organisation(s) does the trust outsource the wet specimen processing to?**
- 7. Does the trust/UHB outsource blocks for processing?**
- 8. How much does the trust spend per annum on outsourced block specimen processing? Please breakdown for the fiscal years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24.**
- 9. Is there a backlog of unreported specimens with the trust/UHB? If so, for how many patients total?**
- 10. What are the current turnaround times (TAT) for the processing of wet specimens**

within the trust/UHB?

11. Does the trust outsource for tissue staining?

12. How much does the trust/UHB spend on outsourced staining per annum? Please breakdown for the fiscal years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24.

13. What is the current TA for wet reporting externally?

14. Does the trust/UHB have a minimum contracted volume with outsourcers?

15. What is the min, mean, and max cost for wet work alone?

16. What is the cost for professional external reporting?

17. How many cases are reported by the trust annually?

18. What percentage is outsourced for professional work?

19. What percentage is outsourced for technical work?

20. How many pathologists does the trust/UHB employ?

21. How many cases on average does a single pathologist report annually?

22. Does the trust/UHB have a digital slide scanner?

23. If so, who is the manufacturer of the scanner? e.g. Phillips, Leica etc.

We do not hold this information. The histology service is provided by North Bristol NHS Trust; all histopathology for University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust is on contract with North Bristol NHS Trust as they are requested on their lab system and we are just a posting service. Please contact foi@nbt.nhs.uk for further information.

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**