

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-442

4 June 2025

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

Q1: Please provide details of the location of the laboratory responsible for completing your histology workloads, as well as the ICB and pathology network details for the years indicated.

2023 2024

NAME OF LABORATORY COMPLETING HISTOPATHOLOGY WORK

INTEGRATED CARE BOARD

PATHOLOGY NETWORK (WHICH NETWORK IS THE HISTOPATHOLOGY LABORATORY PART OF)

NATURE OF PATHOLOGY NETWORK (NUMBER OF HISTOLOGY HUB LABORATORIES IN NETWORK)

NATURE OF PATHOLOGY NETWORK (NUMBER OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES LABORATORIES/SPOKE HISTOPATHOLOGY LABORATORIES IN NETWORK)

Q2: Please provide details of histology workloads (total cases/total slides) for the years indicated. For slides this should be the total volume including special stains and immunohistochemistry.

2023 2024

TOTAL CASES (WHOLE NUMBER)

TOTAL SLIDES (WHOLE NUMBER)

Q3: Please provide details of the histology staffing for the years indicated (full time equivalents). This should only be those staff involved in histology, but may include admin staff (e.g., secretaries) if they play a significant role in the completion of the histology workload. This is divided into two areas (laboratory and support/reporting). This should be a total of staff in post only and should not include unfilled vacancies.

- **Laboratory and support (LAB):** Those staff involved in the preparation of laboratory samples – including admin and quality support roles – this should include histology

secretaries, medical laboratory assistants, biomedical scientists, this should also include any laboratory senior staff/managers in histology.

• **Reporting (REP):** This should include those staff involved in the preparation of histology reports; this should include pathologists, registrars, clinical scientists, and consultant biomedical scientists.

Where staff numbers have changed through a calendar year (e.g., new staff recruited/staff leaving), please provide an approximate average.

2023 2024

HISTOLOGY LABORATORY STAFF (WTE)

HISTOLOGY REPORTING STAFF (WTE)

Q4: Please provide details of the approximate proportion of the histopathology workload outsourced to an external company/laboratory for either laboratory processing and/or reporting, please provide an approximate % of laboratory work (wet cases/blocks) sent for processing and slides sent for reporting.

2023 2024

APPROXIMATE % OF HISTOLOGY LABORATORY WORKLOAD OUTSOURCED FOR PROCESSING

APPROXIMATE % OF HISTOLOGY CASES OUTSOURCED FOR REPORTING

Q5: Where possible please provide details of any bank/locum staff you used for histopathology laboratory processing and/or reporting. Where staff numbers have changed through the year please provide an approximate average.

2023 2024

LOCUM/BANK STAFF USED IN THE LABORATORY FOR HISTOLOGY PROCESSING (WTE)

LOCUM/BANK STAFF USED FOR HISTOLOGY REPORTING (WTE)

Q6: Please provide details on the number of Biomedical Scientist advanced practitioners that you had in post in the years indicated to aid with advanced dissection and case reporting. These should be fully qualified staff in post and assisting in these roles. Where possible the response should indicate the WTE proportion of role spent carrying out these roles.

2023 2024

QUALIFIED BMS ADVANCED PRACTITIONERS CARRYING OUT ADVANCED DISSECTION (DEFINED AS RCPATH CAT D/E SPECIMENS) (WTE)

QUALIFIED BMS ADVANCED PRACTITIONERS/CONSULTANT BIOMEDICAL SCIENTISTS CARRYING OUT CASE REPORTING (WTE)

Q7: Please provide details of turnaround times (TATs) for histology for the years indicated. There are two response options for each year; average histology TAT in days, and % of cases reported in 10 days.

2023 2024

AVERAGE HISTOLOGY TAT IN DAYS

% OF HISTOLOGY CASES REPORTED IN 10 DAYS

Q8: Please provide details on histology budgets for the years indicated, this should be the total budget for delivering histopathology services in the years indicated.

2023 2024

HISTOPATHOLOGY BUDGETS

Q9: Please provide details on the level of histology laboratory automation for each of the indicated years.

- **Embedding should only include details of workload embedded using fully automated systems (examples include the Sakura AutoTEC a120).**
- **Automated microtomy should only include details of workload sectioned using fully automated methods with no human interaction (examples include the Axlabs AS-410m).**

2023 2024

PERCENTAGE OF HISTOLOGY WORKLOAD RAPIDLY PROCESSED USING A MICROWAVE BASED TISSUE PROCESSOR (SAME DAY PROCESSING)

PERCENTAGE OF HISTOLOGY WORKLOAD AUTOMATICALLY EMBEDDED (FULLY AUTOMATED – ZERO HUMAN INVOLVEMENT)

PERCENTAGE OF HISTOLOGY WORKLOAD SECTIONED USING A FULLY AUTOMATED TISSUE SECTIONER (MICROTOME) – ZERO HUMAN INVOLVEMENT

Q10: Please provide details of the proportion of your histology workload that was reported with the aid of digital pathology or artificial intelligence. This data should be for histology only.

- **Digital pathology in this instance refers to the use of digital whole slide images (virtual slides) produced from scanned images of histology slides.**
- **Artificial Intelligence/Computational Pathology in this instance refers to the use of AI tools on digital whole slide images of histology slides to provide details that may assist with the diagnosis of the case, providing counts of positive cells and/or heat maps etc. highlighting potential areas of diagnostic interest.**

2023 2024

PERCENTAGE OF HISTOLOGY WORKLOAD REPORTED WITH THE USE OF DIGITAL WHOLE SLIDE IMAGES

PERCENTAGE OF DIGITAL HISTOLOGY WORKLOAD (WHOLE SLIDE IMAGES)

REPORTED WITH THE AID OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS (CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT)/COMPUTATIONAL PATHOLOGY

We do not hold this information. The histology service is provided by North Bristol NHS Trust. Please contact FOIArequests@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