

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 25-713**

22 September 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

**1. Pathology Backlog**

- The current number of unreported or outstanding pathology cases (e.g., histopathology, cytopathology, or other pathology specialties) as of the latest available date.
- The average turnaround time (TAT) for urgent and routine pathology cases over the last 12 months.
- The highest recorded backlog volumes within the last 12 months.

**2. Backlog Management**

- Details of how the Trust is currently managing any pathology backlog (e.g., internal overtime, recruitment drives, insourcing teams, outsourcing, digital reporting solutions, etc.).

**3. External Spend**

For the last three financial years (2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 YTD):

- Total spend on agency locum pathologists.
- Total spend on outsourcing pathology reporting to external providers or private companies.
- The names of any external companies engaged for pathology reporting/outsourcing.

**4. Digital Pathology Infrastructure**

- Does your Trust currently have a digital pathology reporting structure in place (enabling remote reporting of scanned slides)?
- If yes, which whole-slide scanners are in use (make and model)?
- Does the Trust's current setup allow for remote digital reporting by external pathologists?
- Which Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) is used by your pathology department?
- Are there any plans to expand or adopt digital pathology solutions in the next 12–24

months?

## 5. Future Plans

- **Any documented strategies in place to reduce pathology backlogs, increase reporting capacity, or transition towards digital pathology adoption.**

We do not hold this information. The histopathology service is provided by North Bristol NHS Trust. Please contact [FOIArequests@nbt.nhs.uk](mailto: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**