

Freedom of Information Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act to request the following information on cellular pathology services [Histology]

Full details on information requirements are detailed in the questionnaire completion notes.

Please provide all the data that you can (that you have available). However, if some of the data is unavailable to you or you are unable to provide it for other valid reasons, I would ask you to return a partial response, completing those sections that you are able to. If unable to provide precise details estimated responses are acceptable – if estimated responses are provided, please indicated this (as well as approximate error margin).

Questionnaire (FOI request)

Completion notes

All questions are related to laboratory structure and work completed during the calendar years indicated (full year) unless otherwise indicated.

All questions relate to histopathology only (including routine immunohistochemistry) – please do not include details for Cytology, molecular pathology or any other disciplines unless otherwise stated.

Questions relate to four key concepts and seek to examine how these have changed over time:

- Workloads
- Staffing
- Turnaround times
- Budgets

It is hoped that this may help highlight the increasing pressures being experienced by histology laboratories throughout the UK.

Please complete all questions where possible – if precise data is unavailable, please provide an estimate (stating that data is an estimate plus likely error margin expressed as a percentage).

If unable to complete all questions, please provide a partial response (just completing the data that you can).

If you are unable to provide data on any of the questions, please note this in the free text area provided for comments against each question.

Section 1: Respondent laboratory and commissioning

Q1: Please provide details of the location of the laboratory responsible for completing your histology workloads, as well as the district that you served for the years indicated.

- Laboratory: This should be the name/location of the laboratory completing most of your histology workloads – if your histology work is completed by a different hospital, please indicate this.
- District: Please indicate the unitary authority, county, metropolitan district, non-metropolitan district, integrated care board, or other authority that commissions NHS services from your hospital.

Should you be unable to provide details for any of the years indicated please note this in the free text comments box.

YEAR	LABORATORY	DISTRICT	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	
2009	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	
2010	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	
2011	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	
2012	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	
2013	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	
2014	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	
2015	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	
2016	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	
2017	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	
2018	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	
2019	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	

2020	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	
2021	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	
2022	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	Wiltshire	

Section 2: Histology workloads

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, but should not include cytology, if these cannot be easily filtered out, please indicate this in the free text box. Should you be unable to provide this data for any of the years indicated please indicate this in the free text box. If providing an estimated response, please note this (along with likely error factor expressed as a percentage) in the free text comments box.

YEAR	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL SLIDES	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008	Information not held	Information not held	
2009	Information not held	Information not held	
2010	Information not held	Information not held	
2011	Information not held	Information not held	
2012	Information not held	Information not held	
2013	Information not held	Information not held	
2014	Information not held	Information not held	
2015	16353	46386	Cases = number of requests not specimens
2016	15068	46917	Cases = number of requests not specimens
2017	15733	50104	Cases = number of requests not specimens
2018	16258	54363	Cases = number of requests not specimens
2019	16863	58180	Cases = number of requests not specimens
2020	11910	47954	Cases = number of requests not specimens
2021	14186	56784	Cases = number of requests not specimens
2022	15379	66023	Cases = number of requests not specimens

Section 3: Histology staffing

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 and note this in the comments box. Should you be unable to provide this data for any of the years indicated please indicate this in the free text box. If providing an estimated response, please note this (along with likely error factor expressed as a percentage) in the free text comments box.

YEAR	LAB STAFF (FTE)	REP STAFF (FTE)	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008		6	Inc reg
2009		6	Inc reg
2010		6	Inc reg
2011		6	Inc reg
2012		6	Inc reg
2013		6	Inc reg
2014		6	Inc reg
2015		6	Inc reg
2016		6	Inc reg
2017		6	Inc reg
2018		5	Inc reg
2019	14.7	5	Inc reg
2020	20.6	5	Inc reg, 1 rep and 1 lab off sick for large proportion of year
2021	18.3	5	Inc reg, 1 rep and 1 lab off sick for large proportion of year. 1 lab on MAT leave
2022	23.3	3.6	4.6 from Aug 2022, inc reg

Sections 4: Histology turnaround times

Q4: 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. Please provide both data sets where possible, however, where this is not possible, please note this in the free text comments box. The TAT response should always be from the date the sample was collected to the date when the initial diagnostic report was authorised/released. This data should be for histology only, however, if your data includes NG-Cytology, please just note this in the free text comments. Should you be unable to provide this data for any of the years indicated please indicate this in the free text box. If providing an estimated response, please note this (along with likely error factor expressed as a percentage) in the free text comments box.

YEAR	AVERAGE HISTOLOGY TAT IN DAYS	% OF HISTOLOGY CASES REPORTED IN 10 DAYS	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008	Information not held	Information not held	
2009	Information not held	Information not held	
2010	Information not held	Information not held	
2011	Information not held	Information not held	
2012	Information not held	Information not held	
2013	4.8	97%	
2014	4.6	97%	
2015	5.1	95%	
2016	5.4	93%	
2017	6.6	84%	
2018	8.7	68%	
2019	11.8	54%	
2020	8.3	72%	
2021	9.4	65%	
2022	10.53	58%	

Section 5: Histology budgets

Q 5: Please provide details on histology budgets for the years indicated, this should be the total budget for delivering histopathology services in the years indicated. If other services such as NG-Cytology are included as part of this budget, and it is not possible to separate them please indicate this in the free text comments. Should you be unable to provide this data for any of the years indicated please indicate this in the free text box. If providing an estimated response, please note this (along with likely error factor expressed as a percentage) in the free text comments box.

YEAR	HISTOPATHOLOGY BUDGETS	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008	Information not held	
2009	Information not held	
2010	Information not held	
2011	Information not held	
2012	Information not held	
2013	Information not held	
2014	Information not held	
2015	1.42m	Includes cytology
2016	1.41m	Includes cytology
2017	1.50m	Includes cytology
2018	1.39m	Includes cytology
2019	1.55m	Includes cytology
2020	1.89m	Includes cytology
2021	2.1m	Includes cytology
2022	2.29m	Includes cytology