

**Freedom of Information Act 2000****The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request****Date Request Received: 18 October 2024****FOI Ref No: 26643****Requested Information:**

We are conducting research into the level of capacity in the UK NHS Histopathology Service. Specifically, the capacity of the service to deal with all the Histology cases produced in the UK and the ability of the Histology Labs to be able to deliver the required Turn-around-Times (TAT) to diagnose cancer cases early.

We would ask that you consider the following questions under the FOI act and provide as much detail as is requested please.

**Financial Years**

2021/2022

2022/2023

2023/2024

**“Wet” cases sent out by The Trust**

1. How many full wet Histopathology cases (defined as tissue in a formalin container sent to a 3rd party for processing and reporting) were sent out by the Trust?

2021/2022 - None

2022/2023 - None

2023/2024 - None

2. How many wet cases (defined as tissue in a formalin container sent to a 3rd party for processing into glass slides only) were sent out by the Trust?

2021/2022 - None

2022/2023 - None

2023/2024 - None

3. How many blocks to report cases (defined as a Formalin Fixed Paraffin Embedded - FFPE - histology block sent to a 3rd party for sectioning, staining and reporting) were sent out by the Trust?

2021/2022 - None

2022/2023 - None

2023/2024 - None

4. How many total blocks (approximate to within 10%) were sent out by the Trust to a 3rd party?

Information Governance

Version No: 1

Review Date: 2027

None

5. How many of the above, for each of the financial years 21/22, 22/23 / 23/24 were sent to the following companies?
- a) Unilabs - None
  - b) Source Bioscience / LD Path PLC - None
  - c) Cytel Ltd - None
  - d) Poundbury - None
  - e) Cellular Pathology Services Ltd - None
  - f) Diagnexia Ltd - None
  - g) Backlogs Ltd - None

### **Backlogs in the Histology Department**

6. What is the current backlog number for wet cases in the Histology Lab. Current is defined as of the end of October 2024. This is defined as the number of cases that have been received by the Histology Department but have not been processed (greater than 3 days from receipt)?

5 cases

7. What is the approximate number of uncut blocks in the Histology Lab (defined as histology blocks that have been processed and not sectioned) awaiting sectioning and greater than 5 days old

259 blocks

### **Histology technical staffing levels**

8. How many Biomedical Scientist Staff – BMS - and technical staff does the lab require (as defined as Whole Time Equivalent - WTE - by band) and how many does the Trust have?

BMS Staff - 20 & have 16

Technical (MLA/MLSW/AP) - 18 & have 13

9. How many BMS and technical vacancies (such as MLA - Medical Lab Assistants) does the Trust currently have open. Please state the number and grades?

BMS Staff - 4 vacancies

Technical (MLA/MLSW/AP) – 5 vacancies

### **Attachment(s):**

None

### **Date Response sent:**

08 November 2024

Information Governance

Version No: 1

Review Date: 2027