

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 25th July 2025

FOI Ref No 29696

Requested Information:

For the period April 1st to December 2024, please provide the following information:

1. How many whole time equivalent histopathology consultants (as defined by being on the GMC specialist register for pathology) were employed by the authority at 31/12/2024.
2. How many histology cases were reported in the following period, overall and by the following sub-specialties:
 - dermatology
 - gastro-intestinal
 - urology
 - gynaecology
 - breast
 - thoracic
 - head and neck
 - other
 - total cases reported
 - How many of the total cases given above were reported by
 - a. consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract Programmed Activities or PAs.
 - b. consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.
 - c. locum consultants working for the authority
 - d. external reporting companies.
3. Please provide a total number of cases and the number reported by each of the following:
 - Unilabs
 - HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs
 - SBS (Source Bioscience/LD Path)
 - Cellular Pathology Services Limited
 - Diagnexia
 - Digital Pathology Partners
 - Cytel
 - Poundbury Cancer Institute
 - Medica

- external reporting companies total
4. How much did the authority spend on each of the following during the period
- a. consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract Programmed Activities or PAs. (salary plus NI plus pension contribution)
 - b. consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.
 - c. locum consultants working for the authority
 - d. external reporting companies.
 - Please provide a total spend and the spend with each of the following:
 - Unilabs
 - HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs
 - SBS (Source Bioscience/LD Path)
 - Cellular Pathology Services Limited
 - Diagnexia
 - Digital Pathology Partners
 - Cytel
 - Poundbury Cancer Institute
 - Medica
 - external reporting companies total
5. Please provide TATs for:
- a. Molecular testing services for NHS histopathology work
 - b. Reporting histopathology in cancer cases
 - i. Please provide list of fines paid for missing cancer TAT targets
6. Please provide current backlog of cancer services, by volume and speciality?

Response:

For the period April 1st to December 2024, please provide the following information:

1. How many whole time equivalent histopathology consultants (as defined by being on the GMC specialist register for pathology) were employed by the authority at 31/12/2024.
9.4 WTE
2. How many histology cases were reported in the following period, overall and by the following sub-specialties:

Specimen Category	Number of cases reported
Dermatology	9349

Gastro-intestinal	10000
Urology	1585
Gynaecology	3423
Breast	1625
Thoracic	94
Head and Neck	1227
Other	1911
Total cases reported	29214

- How many of the total cases given above were reported by
 - a. consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract Programmed Activities or PAs.

Consultants during PAs	20611
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- b. consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.

Consultants as additional work	3804
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- c. locum consultants working for the authority

locum consultants	0
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- d. external reporting companies.

External reporting company	3814
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3. Please provide a total number of cases and the number reported by each of the following:

Company	Total cases reported
Unilabs	0
HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs	3814
SBS (Source Bioscience/LD Path)	0
Cellular Pathology Services Limited	0
Diagnexia	0
Digital Pathology Partners	0
Cyted	0
Poundbury Cancer Institute	0
Medica	0

4. How much did the authority spend on each of the following during the period

- a. consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract Programmed Activities or PAs. (salary plus NI plus pension contribution)
- b. consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.
- c. locum consultants working for the authority
- d. external reporting companies.
- Please provide a total spend and the spend with each of the following:
 - Unilabs
 - HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs
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 - Cellular Pathology Services Limited
 - Diagnexia
 - Digital Pathology Partners
 - Cytel
 - Poundbury Cancer Institute
 - Medica
 - external reporting companies total

Section 43 Commercial Sensitivity

5. Please provide TATs for:
 - a. Molecular testing services for NHS histopathology work
 - **In-house: 2-4 days**
 - **GLH: 15-24 days**
 - b. Reporting histopathology in cancer cases

Month	% Reported in under 10 days
April 24	69.1%
May 24	70.5%
June 24	62.3%
July 24	83.0%
Aug 24	67.1%
Sept 24	65.1%
Oct 24	55.5%
Nov 24	75.0%
Dec 24	80.0%

- ii. Please provide list of fines paid for missing cancer TAT targets
 - **None**

6. Please provide current backlog of cancer services, by volume and speciality?

Figures as of 28/07:

Specialty	No. Patients
Colorectal	14
Gynaecology	3
Skin	19
Upper Gi	1

Attachment(s):

No Attachment(s)

Date Response sent: 29th September 2025

Section 43 Commercial Sensitivity

Regarding Question 4. How much did the authority spend on each of the following during the period., the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust have considered this part of your request and after careful consideration, have concluded that the information requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 43 (2)1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

143. (2) Information is exempt from disclosure under this Act as it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Exemption 43 (2) is a qualified exemption and the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust have fully considered the balance of public interest and are satisfied that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. The Trust considers that there is a real likelihood of harm arising to both its own commercial interests but also to our supplier's commercial interests.

