

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 03 October 2025

FOI Ref 30561

Requested Information:

I would like to request the following information regarding MM, VIR & ID workload within the Trust.

The request is as follows:

1. Does your trust have dedicated virology laboratories, or are diagnostic tests for viral infections conducted in microbiology laboratories?
2. Do you provide clinical advice to more than 1 trust? If so, does that include onsite availability and how many trusts, hospitals, health boards, and organisations?
3. Is your trust responsible and/or do they cover any other laboratory, if so, how many laboratories?
4. What type of lab setup does your organisation currently use?
5. Approximately how many tests have you received yearly for swabs, blood, urine & stools in the last 5 years for MM, MVIR & ID?
6. As a medical microbiologist / medical virologist accredited in infectious diseases, do you provide inpatient care?
7. How many of your working hours are spent between the listed work areas, per week?
8. How many microbiologists also do virology workload
9. Does the service cover the listed out-of-hours (inpatient or other)

Response:

1. Does your trust have dedicated virology laboratories, or are diagnostic tests for viral infections conducted in microbiology laboratories?

1. Yes, we have a dedicated virology laboratory within the microbiology building

2. Do you provide clinical advice to more than 1 trust? If so, does that include onsite availability and how many trusts, hospitals, health boards, and organisations?

2. We provide clinical advice to mainly Royal Cornwall Hospital trust but this also includes GP's and the wider community

3. Is your trust responsible and/or do they cover any other laboratory, if so, how many laboratories?

3. No, our trust is not responsible nor do they cover any other laboratory.

4. What type of lab setup does your organisation currently use?

4. We have a Dedicated Clinical Microbiology Laboratory building on the RCHT main site. Unable to expand as unclear what the question is asking?

5. Approximately how many tests have you received yearly for swabs, blood, urine & stools in the last 5 years for MM, MVIR & ID?

5. Estimated sample numbers received yearly for swabs, blood, urine & stools in the last 5 years. This doesn't include point of care COVID testing or blood cultures.

YEAR	URINE	SWABS (Bacteriology)	FAECES	BLOOD (Virology)	SWABS (Virology)
2020	70380	24968	45412	21846	83259
2021	75848	25567	50281	15156	176038
2022	84290	33130	51160	22774	88635
2023	89130	37113	52017	25629	23087
2024	91353	39101	52252	27320	29999

6. As a medical microbiologist / medical virologist accredited in infectious diseases, do you provide inpatient care?

6. As a medical microbiologist / medical virologist accredited in infectious diseases, we do not provide inpatient care.

7. How many of your working hours are spent between the listed work areas, per week?

7. Working hours are concurrent spending time between the listed work areas.

8. How many microbiologists also do virology workload

8. There are five microbiologists who also perform the virology workload

9. Does the service cover the listed out-of-hours (inpatient or other)

9. Yes, the service covers the listed out-of-hours inpatient and other.

Attachment(s):

No attachment(s)

Date Response sent: 13 October 2025

