

FOI 3231

13th August 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

We are researching histology/ cellular pathology activity in NHS organisations and the use of locums and outsourcing to report these.

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. –

Response:

7.625

2. How many histology cases were reported in the following period, overall and by the following sub-specialties

Response:

Overall – 13755

Subspecialties – Not available

3. 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. –

Response:

11348

b. consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work. –

Response:

550

c. locum consultants working for the authority –

Response:

1857

d. external reporting companies. –

Response:

Zero

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)

Response:

£1,020k covering the period Apr-Dec 2024.

b. consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.

Response:

£24450

c. locum consultants working for the authority

Response:

£76000

d. external reporting companies.

Response:

Zero

5. Please provide TATs for Molecular testing services for NHS histopathology work –

Response:

14 days (external lab)

a. Reporting histopathology in cancer cases –

Response:

90% of diagnostic biopsies within 14 calendar days

90% of resection specimens within 28 calendar days

Please provide list of fines paid for missing cancer TAT targets –

Response:

Not available

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

Response:
Zero

7. Please provide list of pending or closed court cases and the cost of these to the NHS?

Response:
Information is not centrally recorded.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Public Authorities are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide the information you have requested as the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It has been estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to locate and retrieve the requested information. To obtain this information would exceed the £450 limit and is therefore cost prohibitive.

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