

FOI 2029

19th February 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

In relation to the Cervical Smear Review have the Southern Trust reviewed the records of about 17,000 (Seventeen Thousand) women screened during the period of 1 January 2008 and October 2021?

Response:

Yes the results of cervical smears for women affected are being reviewed for the period 1 January 2008 and October 2021.

2. Have the Southern Trust made contact with all 17,000 (Seventeen Thousand) people who have been affected?; and

Response:

Yes the Trust has sent letters to the women explaining that:

An independent report, commissioned by the Southern Trust, has found that there may have been an issue with the accuracy of some of the smear results provided by the laboratory. Whilst the majority of results were correct, some women may have had a 'negative' smear result which could have been identified as 'abnormal' had it been tested in a different laboratory.

We are therefore undertaking a precautionary review of the results of some patients who had cervical smears analysed by the Trust between 1 January 2008 and October 2021.

3. What is the current processing time from cervical smear results are received by the Southern Trust until the results are sent back to source? And does this timeframe meet the current NICE guidelines?

Response:

At present, the Southern Trust does not undertake Cervical Smear investigations.

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