



Ref: FOI-120 -202425-Clinical Data and Processes-Histology Reporting  
**Data, Security and Protection**  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Date; 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Email [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 20th May 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Histology Reporting

On the same day we contacted you via email with the following:

Under section 8(1) of the FOI Act, requestors are required to provide a full name in order to make a request valid. The Information Commissioner states that a "title and/or first name with surname satisfies the requirement for provision of a real name, as does the use by a female applicant of her maiden name". Therefore, in order to proceed with your request can you please supply us with a valid name. Once we have received this we will continue to process your request. If we do not hear from you within the next two months we will assume you no longer require this information and will close your request.

In addition

Section 8 – “Real name” checks

Can you please confirm that you are only submitting this request for your personal use or that of an unstructured group and not on behalf of a company/corporate body?

If you are making the request on behalf of a company/corporate body as an employee, then you should declare the real company name and this will enable us to consider the validity of the request.

This approach is in compliance with the Information Commissioner guidance “Recognising a request made under the Freedom of Information Act (section 8) Version 1.2”. Your attention is drawn to paragraphs 14, 15, 16, 20, 21 22 and 35 of this guidance. <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/receiving-a-request/> and What makes a valid request?

We are asking you because this appears not to be the first request you have made and the request has other characteristics that might suggest you are working on behalf of a company/body corporate.

The Trust needs to be assured that time spent on requests within a 60 working day period does not exceed the appropriate limit for each applicant, be that a person, group or company. In this way we promote fair use of the Act and best use of our resources.

On the same day you replied via email with:

*‘Thank you for the request for my real name which is [REDACTED] I run a potential marketing consultancy called [REDACTED]*

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UJNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

**Q1 I would like to make a request for information for financial years 21/22, 22 /23 and 23/24. please provide information relating to histology slides/ cases reported for patients of the Trust.**

**How many histology cases were reported by Consultant Histopathologists for patients treated by the Trust. If exact numbers are not available, an estimate to within 5% is acceptable, but please state whether exact numbers or estimates are given. Cytology can be excluded.**

A1 See below:

Period FY	Requests
Apr 2021 to Mar 2022	64247
Apr 2022 to Mar 2023	73764
Apr 2023 to Mar 2024	80083

**Q2 Of these cases, how many were reported by**

**A) Consultants employed by the trust working in their normal NHS programmed activity sessions**

**B) Consultants employed by the trust being paid for additional sessions**

**C) Consultants employed by the trust being paid an amount per slide or case for activity outside their contracted programmed activities**

**D) Consultants employed by other trusts, where the trust contracts with these consultants or their trust**

**E) Backlogs Limited**

**F) Unilabs**

**G) Source Bioscience**

**H) Cellular Pathology Services (CPS) Limited**

**I) Diagnexia Ltd**

A2 Of these cases, how many were reported by.

A) Consultants employed by the Trust working in their normal NHS programmed activity sessions

NMCPS Pathologist	FY	Count of Cases
Consultant Reporting	Apr 2021 to Mar 2022	45587
Consultant Reporting	Apr 2022 to Mar 2023	42756
Consultant Reporting	Apr 2023 to Mar 2024	51242

B) Consultants employed by the Trust being paid for additional sessions

NMCPS Pathologist	FY	Count of Cases
Consultant Reporting (Additional Sessions)	Apr 2021 to Mar 2022	3833
Consultant Reporting (Additional Sessions)	Apr 2022 to Mar 2023	9730
Consultant Reporting (Additional Sessions)	Apr 2023 to Mar 2024	11136
<b>Total</b>		<b>24699</b>

C) Consultants employed by the Trust being paid an amount per slide or case for activity outside their contracted programmed activities

N/A

D) Consultants employed by other Trusts, where the Trust contracts with these consultants or their Trust

Apr 2021 to Mar 2022	1053
Apr 2022 to Mar 2023	1166
Apr 2023 to Mar 2024	470

E) Backlogs Limited

The Trust considers your request to be exempt from disclosure in accordance with section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act as to release this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust. The Trust has applied the public interest test to this request and feels that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

F) Unilabs

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G) Source Bioscience

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H) Cellular Pathology Services (CPS) Limited

Not used

I) Diagnexia Ltd

Not used

**Q3 What was the spend in GBP in financial years 21/22, 22 /23 and 23/24 with each of the following in relation to the reporting of histology cases**

**A) Consultants employed by the Trust being paid for additional sessions**

**B) Consultants employed by the Trust being paid an amount per slide or case for activity outside their contracted programmed activities**

**C) Consultants employed by other Trusts, where the Trust contracts with these consultants privately or their Trust**

**D) Backlogs Limited**

**E) Unilabs**

**F) Source Bioscience**

**G) Cellular Pathology Services (CPS) Limited**

**H) Diagnexia Ltd**

A3 See below:

B) Consultants employed by the Trust being paid an amount per slide or case for activity outside their contracted programmed activities

n/a

C) Consultants employed by other Trusts, where the Trust contracts with these consultants privately or their Trust

Costs P/A FY		
21/22	22/23	23/24
£ 30,421.00	£ 22,752.00	£ 26,382.00

D) Backlogs Limited

Costs P/A FY		
21/22	22/23	23/24
£ 235,200.00	£ 331,232.92	-

E) Unilabs

Costs P/A FY		
21/22	22/23	23/24
£ 111,642.00	£ 175.00	-

F) Source Bioscience

Costs P/A FY		
21/22	22/23	23/24
£ 455,637.00	£ 1,785,454.93	£ 1,874,694.33

G) Cellular Pathology Services (CPS) Limited

N/A

H) Diagnexia Ltd

N/A

Q4 **Consultant staffing**

**A) How many WTE Consultant Grade Pathologists should the Trust have in the Histology Department and**

**B) How many does the Trust have?**

**C) How many vacancies does the Trust currently have for consultant pathologists and in what sub-specialities are these vacancies. If “general” please state**

A4 See below:

A: 21.5 FTE In budget

B: 16.5 WTE consultants in post all based at the hub laboratory at RSUH

C: 5.0 FTE vacancies (Across all subspecialities)

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

***UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.***

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust’s disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust’s FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

