

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-122024-0001282

Date: 05.12.2024

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request

Please can I be provided with the below data regarding pathology services under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000?

1. Does the trust/UHB outsource wet surgical specimens?
2. If so, how many specimens are outsourced per annum?
3. What is the subspecialty of the outsourced specimens? E.g. Skin, Endoscopy etc. Please breakdown if possible.
4. How much does the trust/UHB spend per annum on outsourced wet specimen processing? Please breakdown for the fiscal years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24.
5. Does the trust report in house on wet processed specimens or is this done externally?
6. Which organisation(s) does the trust outsource the wet specimen processing to?
7. Does the trust/UHB outsource blocks for processing?
8. How much does the trust spend per annum on outsourced block specimen processing? Please breakdown for the fiscal years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24.
9. Is there a backlog of unreported specimens with the trust/UHB? If so, for how many patients total?
10. What are the current turnaround times (TAT) for the processing of wet specimens within the trust/UHB?
11. Does the trust outsource for tissue staining?
12. How much does the trust/UHB spend on outsourced staining per annum? Please breakdown for the fiscal years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24.
13. What is the current TA for wet reporting externally?
14. Does the trust/UHB have a minimum contracted volume with outsourcers?
15. What is the min, mean, and max cost for wet work alone?
16. What is the cost for professional external reporting?
17. How many cases are reported by the trust annually?
18. What percentage is outsourced for professional work?
19. What percentage is outsourced for technical work?
20. How many pathologists does the trust/UHB employ?
21. How many cases on average does a single pathologist report annually?
22. Does the trust/UHB have a digital slide scanner?
23. If so, who is the manufacturer of the scanner? e.g. Phillips, Leica etc.

Response

The Trust is now part of The Black Country Pathology Services.

The Black Country Pathology Services (BCPS) partnership will integrate pathology services at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT), with Sandwell West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBH), Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust (DGH) and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust (WHT). The BCPS will be hosted by RWT on behalf of the partnership.

Your will need to forward your request to the FOI Team at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

Email: rwh-tr.foi@nhs.net

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust