

Date: 30/03/2022

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/016146 – Histopathology

1. How many histopathology consultants had a substantive contract with the authority as at 28th February 2022.
2. During the period 1st April 2021 to 28th February 2022, how much did the authority spend, in addition to the salaries of substantive consultants, on the reporting of histopathology cases, within the following categories of spend:
 - a) Payments for locum histopathologists
 - b) Additional payments to substantive histopathologists employed by the authority for work in addition to their contracted programmed activities (PAs)
 - c) Payments to companies who provide a histopathology reporting service
3. During the period 1st April 2021 to 28th February 2022, how much did the authority spend with each of the following suppliers for the reporting of histopathology cases:
 - a) Unilabs
 - b) Source Bioscience
 - c) Backlogs (HCA Laboratories)
 - d) LD Path
 - e) Cellular Pathology Services
 - f) Digital Pathology Partners
 - g) Pathgnomics
 - h) Synlab
 - i) The Doctors Laboratory
4. How do the authority manage the potential conflict of interest which arises when substantive histopathology consultants employed by the authority are involved in purchasing reporting services from the above mentioned suppliers, and are also paid by these suppliers to provide reporting services outside their contracted NHS hours. For example, company X suggests to consultant Y, employed by Trust Z, that if consultant Y gives company X a contract to provide reporting services to Trust Z, that company X may employ consultant Y to undertake reporting work through company X for Trusts A, B, C. Please indicate which of the following apply:
 - a) The Authority doesn't recognise this as a risk.
 - b) The authority recognises this as a risk, but doesn't take steps to manage this risk.
 - c) The authority recognises this as a risk and requires all substantive consultants to declare any conflicts of interest.
 - d) The authority recognises this as a risk and requires all substantive consultants to declare any conflicts of interest, and requires these consultants to disclose the source of all income in addition to their NHS salary.
 - e) The authority recognises this as a risk and requires all substantive consultants to declare any conflicts of interest.
 - f) The authority recognises this as a risk, and takes other steps to manage this risk please explain.

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.

Please forward your request to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust rwh-tr.FOI@nhs.net