

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

Ref: FOI-052023-00068

Date: 21/6/23

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

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

Please see attached part response to your request.

Questions 1 to 4 have been answered and as soon as a response is received to question 5 this will be forwarded to you.

Sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you

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

Freedom of Information Request 00068

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act to request the following information on cellular pathology services [Histology]

Please provide all the data that you can (that you have available). However, if some of the data is unavailable to you or you are unable to provide it for other valid reasons, I would ask you to return a partial response, completing those sections that you are able to. If unable to provide precise details estimated responses are acceptable – if estimated responses are provided, please indicated this (as well as approximate error margin).

I also work in the NHS (in histology) and understand the time pressures faced, I have therefore tried to make this as simple and easy to complete as possible.

Questionnaire (FOI request)

Please note:- *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.

Section 1: Respondent laboratory and commissioning

Q1: Please provide details of the location of the laboratory responsible for completing your histology workloads, as well as the district that you served for the years indicated.

- Laboratory: This should be the name/location of the laboratory completing most of your histology workloads – if your histology work is completed by a different hospital, please indicate this.
- District: Please indicate the unitary authority, county, metropolitan district, non-metropolitan district, integrated care board, or other authority that commissions NHS services from your hospital.

Should you be unable to provide details for any of the years indicated please note this in the free text comments box.

YEAR	LABORATORY	DISTRICT	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2009	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2010	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2011	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2012	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2013	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2014	Russells Hall	Dudley	

2015	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2016	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2017	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2018	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2019	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2020	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2021	Wolverhampton	Dudley	
2022	Wolverhampton	Dudley	

Section 2: Histology workloads

Q2: Please provide details of histology workloads (total cases/total slides) for the years indicated. For slides this should be the total volume including special stains and immunohistochemistry, but should not include cytology, if these cannot be easily filtered out, please indicate this in the free text box. Should you be unable to provide this data for any of the years indicated please indicate this in the free text box. If providing an estimated response, please note this (along with likely error factor expressed as a percentage) in the free text comments box.

YEAR	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL SLIDES	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008	23758		Data on slides not available
2009	24482		Data on slides not available
2010	24022		Data on slides not available
2011	24577		Data on slides not available
2012	25730		Data on slides not available
2013	25907		Data on slides not available
2014	27559		Data on slides not available
2015	28265		Data on slides not available
2016	26112		Data on slides not available
2017	26465		Data on slides not available
2018	27422		Data on slides not available
2019	27609		Data on slides not available
2020	19960		Data on slides not available
2021	23359		Data on slides not available
2022	12286		Data only available to 26 th September 2022

Section 3: Histology staffing

Q3: Please provide details of the histology staffing for the years indicated (full time equivalents). This should only be those staff involved in histology, but may include admin staff (e.g., secretaries) if they play a significant role in the completion of the histology workload. This is divided into two areas (laboratory and support/reporting). This should be a total of staff in post only and should not include unfilled vacancies.

- Laboratory and support (LAB): Those staff involved in the preparation of laboratory samples – including admin and quality support roles – this should include histology secretaries, medical laboratory assistants, biomedical scientists, this should also include any laboratory senior staff/managers in histology.

- **Reporting (REP):** This should include those staff involved in the preparation of histology reports; this should include pathologists, registrars, clinical scientists, and consultant biomedical scientists.

Where staff numbers have changed through a calendar year (e.g., new staff recruited/staff leaving), please provide an approximate average and note this in the comments box. Should you be unable to provide this data for any of the years indicated please indicate this in the free text box. If providing an estimated response, please note this (along with likely error factor expressed as a percentage) in the free text comments box.

YEAR	LAB STAFF (FTE)	REP STAFF (FTE)	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008	36.1	5.7	Histology Serv, Medics Histology Serv, Pathology Admin Serv
2009	32.1	6.6	Histology Serv, Medics Histology Serv, Pathology Admin Serv
2010	30.0	4.9	Histology Serv, Medics Histology Serv, Pathology Admin Serv
2011	28.7	6.1	Histology Serv, Medics Histology Serv, Pathology Admin Serv
2012	26.7	6.1	Histology Serv, Medics Histology Serv, Pathology Admin Serv
2013	27.2	4.1	Histology Serv, Medics Histology Serv, Pathology Admin Serv
2014	91.9	6.5	Histology Serv, Medics Histology Serv, Pathology Admin Serv
2015	79.0	6.0	Histology Serv, Medics Histology Serv, Pathology Admin Serv
2016	82.5	3.8	Histology Serv, Medics Histology Serv, Pathology Admin Serv
2017	81.7	4.6	Histology Serv, Medics Histology Serv, Pathology Admin Serv
2018	79.4	1.4	Histology Serv, Medics Histology Serv, Pathology Admin Serv
2019	42.7	/	Pathology – Phlebotomy Serv Only
2020	39.3	/	Pathology – Phlebotomy Serv Only
2021	42.9	/	Pathology – Phlebotomy Serv Only
2022	40.4	/	Pathology – Phlebotomy Serv Only

Sections 4: Histology turnaround times

Q4: Please provide details of turnaround times (TATs) for histology for the years indicated. There are two response options for each year; average histology TAT in days, and % of cases reported in 10 days. Please provide both data sets where possible, however, where this is not possible, please note this in the free text comments box. The TAT response should always be from the date the sample was collected to the date when the initial diagnostic report was authorised/released. This data should be for histology only, however, if your data includes NG-Cytology, please just note this in the free text comments. Should you be unable to provide this data for any of the years indicated please indicate this in the free text box. If providing an estimated response, please note this (along with likely error factor expressed as a percentage) in the free text comments box.

YEAR	AVERAGE HISTOLOGY TAT IN DAYS	% OF HISTOLOGY CASES REPORTED IN 10 DAYS	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008			Data not available
2009			Data not available
2010			Data not available
2011			Data not available
2012			Data not available
2013			Data not available
2014			Data not available
2015	10.59	54.9	
2016	9.57	61.4	
2017	8.76	71.3	
2018	5.72	79.2	
2019	10.64	70.2	
2020	8.69	75.3	
2021	9.76	68.9	
2022			Data not available

Section 5: Histology budgets

Q 5: Please provide details on histology budgets for the years indicated, this should be the total budget for delivering histopathology services in the years indicated. If other services such as NG-Cytology are included as part of this budget, and it is not possible to separate them please indicate this in the free text comments. Should you be unable to provide this data for any of the years indicated please indicate this in the free text box. If providing an estimated response, please note this (along with likely error factor expressed as a percentage) in the free text comments box.

YEAR	HISTOPATHOLOGY BUDGETS	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008		
2009		
2010		
2011		
2012		
2013		
2014		
2015		
2016		
2017		
2018		
2019		
2020		
2021		
2022		

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2014	Russells Hall	Dudley	

2015	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2016	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2017	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2018	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2019	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2020	Russells Hall	Dudley	
2021	Wolverhampton	Dudley	
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YEAR	HISTOPATHOLOGY BUDGETS	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
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2010	£1,737,789	Financial Year 2010/11
2011	£1,727,988	Financial Year 2011/12
2012	£1,755,994	Financial Year 2012/13
2013	£1,792,306	Financial Year 2013/14
2014	£1,820,299	Financial Year 2014/15
2015	£1,934,662	Financial Year 2015/16
2016	£1,927,505	Financial Year 2016/17
2017	£2,129,406	Financial Year 2017/18
2018	£2,194,075	Financial Year 2018/19
2019	£2,260,207	Financial Year 2019/20
2020	£2,421,034	Financial Year 2020/21
2021	£2,363,743	Financial Year 2021/22
2022	£2,663,239	Financial Year 2022/23