

Trust Headquarters
Russells Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-072025-0001717

Date: 9.7.25

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

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

Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act to request information regarding the use and uptake of **digital pathology** within your trust's pathology services.

Specifically, we are seeking information on both **slide digitisation** and **slide reading (including AI-based systems)**, as well as the extent of **digital adoption** within your histopathology services.

Slide digitisation

1. Please list the suppliers or companies currently used (*if any, else respond with "Not used"*) to digitise pathology slides within your trust's pathology services (i.e. for converting glass slides into whole-slide images):
 - a. Supplier name (Philips, Leica, Hamamatsu, Roche Diagnostics, etc.)
 - b. Model(s) installed
 - c. Number of scanners deployed
 - d. Year of deployment
 - e. Method of acquisition (capital purchase, lease or managed service contract)
 - f. Was the scanner procured directly from the manufacturer or via a reseller? (if known)
 - g. If applicable, any external service providers (e.g. outsourced scanning)

Slide reading

2. Please detail any software or AI tools used (*if any, else respond with "Not used"*) for reading, analysing, or supporting the interpretation of digital pathology slides:
 - a. Software/company name (Sectra, Paige, Ibex, PathAI, Indica Labs, Aiforia, etc.)
 - b. Product name (if known)
 - c. Use case (e.g. viewer only, AI diagnosis support, automated screening, triage)
 - d. Year of deployment
 - e. Was the software procured directly from the supplier or via a reseller? (if known)

Provide the above for each software or AI tool used (multiple)

Digital adoption

3. For your trust's pathology services, please provide the following information for each of the past 3 financial years (*FY 2022/23 [1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023], FY 2023/24 [1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024], and FY 2024/25 [1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025]*):
 - a. Total number of histopathology glass slides prepared
 1. Total number of histopathology slides digitalised using whole-slide scanners (if known)
 2. Total number of unique histopathology cases reported (*including all reporting*)

- modalities)*
3. Total number of histopathology cases reported digitally (*using screen-based reading/viewers, not by light microscopy*)

Response

The Black Country Pathology Services (BCPS) Partnership integrates pathology services and is based at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) for Sandwell West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBH), The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust (DGH) and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust (WHT). The Black Country Pathology Service is hosted by RWT on behalf of the Partnership. Therefore, please can you forward your request to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust rwht.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: dqft.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