

Date: 21/11/2018

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 014471 – pathology

I understand that you are one of five NHS acute Trusts in The Black Country who plan to build a major extension to the pathology lab on the Wolverhampton Hospital site, whilst retaining some urgent testing at the hospital sites.

Please provide the following information:

The amount of capital investment required to build and equip the new laboratory

- £9M approved capital funding for an extension to an existing laboratory

When construction work will commence on this laboratory

- Construction will commence in December 2018 with site setup.

A list of alternative options considered

- Build options considered are a north extension and a southern extension to the existing pathology services building. The southern extension was identified as the preferred option due to logistics.

The clinical teams evaluated a long list of options, which included:

- A complete new build
- An extension to RWT
- A distributed model.

The preferred model, for clinical, operational and financial was the extension to the Hub.

A summary of consultation with patients and GPs affected

- The clinical model has no impact on patients directly, other than an improvement in the turnaround of tests. GPs from the relevant CCGs have been involved in the planning and approval of the agreed operating model, and remain part of the project governance, as part of a Clinical Reference Group, where any proposed changes have to be supported/approved.

Any assessment of the impact on the time from blood being taken from a patient to results being available to doctors. The average travel time must be longer and the average time must increase.

- The operating model has inpatient and outpatient work remaining at current laboratories. Part of the project plan includes an assessment of logistics. The starting point was that there should be no deterioration in turnaround times for tests. By reviewing the current transport times, we aim to build on the service, and will be working with practices to improve the transport services to better serve community phlebotomy clinics.

We are also implementing a single Laboratory Information Management System, LIMS, to enable clinicians across the network to access results, wherever the request was made

Any lessons learned from other NHS hub labs, such as the ones in East Anglia which are considered to have failed.

- Common LIMS, equipment platform and logistics reviews were not part of other networks and were deemed as crucial for our planning. We also reviewed the service in a successful network, SW London. Clinical teams visited to understand their opinions, and lessons learnt

Whether a model was considered which distributed different specialist tests across different sites, and maintained high volume blood science testing at all hospital sites. There is emerging evidence that this provides a lower cost and more resilient model, without the need to invest in building a new laboratory.

- Blood Sciences are maintained at all sites to provide in-patient and some outpatient work