

Trust Headquarters  
Russells Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ

**Ref:** FOI-082025-0001806

**Date:** 5.8.25

**Address / Email:**

Dear

**Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

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

**Request**

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to request the following information:

We are researching histology/ cellular pathology activity in NHS organisations and the use of locums and outsourcing to report these.

For the period April 1st to December 2024, please provide the following information:

1. How many whole time equivalent histopathology consultants (as defined by being on the GMC specialist register for pathology) were employed by the authority at 31/12/2024.
2. How many histology cases were reported in the following period, overall and by the following sub-specialties
  - dermatology
  - gastro-intestinal
  - urology
  - gynaecology
  - breast
  - thoracic
  - head and neck
  - other
  - total cases reported
3. How many of the total cases given above were reported by
  - a. consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract Programmed Activities or PAs.
  - b. consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.
  - c. locum consultants working for the authority
  - d. external reporting companies.

Please provide a total number of cases and the number reported by each of the following:

- Unilabs
- HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs
- SBS (Source Bioscience/LD Path)

- Cellular Pathology Services Limited
- Diagnexia
- Digital Pathology Partners
- Cytel
- Poundbury Cancer Institute
- Medica
- external reporting companies total

4. How much did the authority spend on each of the following during the period

a. consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract  
Programmed Activities or PAs. (salary plus NI plus pension contribution)

b. consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.

c. locum consultants working for the authority

d. external reporting companies.

Please provide a total spend and the spend with each of the following:

- Unilabs
- HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs
- SBS (Source Bioscience/LD Path)
- Cellular Pathology Services Limited
- Diagnexia
- Digital Pathology Partners
- Cytel
- Poundbury Cancer Institute
- Medica
- external reporting companies total

5. Please provide TATs for:

a. Molecular testing services for NHS histopathology work

b. Reporting histopathology in cancer cases

1. Please provide list of fines paid for missing cancer TAT targets

6. Please provide current backlog of cancer services, by volume and speciality?

## 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 [rwhtr.FOI@nhs.net](mailto:rwhtr.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](mailto: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](http://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**