

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5036

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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Smear test results.

You asked:

- 1. What proportion of women in Kent, Surrey and Sussex get their smear test results with the two-week target?*
- 2. What is the longest a woman from Kent, Surrey or Sussex has had to wait for her smear test result since 2016? And why did they wait this long?*
- 3. Do you have a backlog of smear test cases to examine? If so, how big is this backlog?*
- 4. Some trusts have reported a shortage of cytologists. Do you have any staff shortages?*

Trust response:

This information relates to West Kent and Medway only.

1. In West Kent CCG 99.7% in September 2018, in the rest of West Kent and Medway approximately 1.5% (3 CCGS, each slightly different figure). The reason for the difference in the figures is due to the differences in the screening method used. West Kent CCG patients are now tested using an HPV molecular method, whereas the others are still using LBC cytology. The Trust is unable to roll out the new screening method across all patients without authority from the National Screening Office. However, the impact of this new test (we are the first laboratory in the country to be enabled to do this), is that the knock on effect will be improvement in all figures with a target to screen all women within 14 days by the end of 2018.
2. 12 weeks is the longest wait in West Kent and Medway (due to staffing shortages causing an inability to screen and report the slides made from the sample in the appropriate timeframe)
3. Yes, currently 4,518 breaching samples (56 days) and decreasing daily.
4. Yes