

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 8194

Please reply to:
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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 Histology services.

You asked:

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.*

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.

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.

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.

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.

Trust response:

Please note: Sections of the tables that have no entries have been removed.

Section 1: Respondent laboratory and commissioning

2014	Histopathology		From 2014 the MTW Histopathology department has provided services to Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust and Medway NHS Foundation Trust as well as Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
2022			From 2023 Kent and Medway ICB

Section 2: Histology workloads

YEAR	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL SLIDES	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008	15478	unavailable	
2009	27990	unavailable	
2010	45685	unavailable	Service transfer from Medway in Feb 2010
2011	47076	unavailable	
2012	49234	unavailable	
2013	60893	unavailable	Service transfer from Medway May 2013
2014	66881	unavailable	This is the first full year of the current service configuration.
2015	67828	unavailable	
2016	68836	unavailable	
2017	68157	unavailable	
2018	68957	unavailable	
2019	69978	368,327	There is no reliable measure of slide numbers before this date
2020	56356	335,374	
2021	67270	389,466	
2022	75740	482,416	

Section 3: Histology staffing

YEAR	LAB STAFF (FTE)	REP STAFF (FTE)	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2009	34.89	15.0	This, and what follows, is for budgeted staff excluding any vacancy factor adjustments. It does not indicate staff actually in post. There is no data for staff turnover. Rep staff includes consultant grade BMSs and STRs. 1wte consultant covering cytology has been excluded from figures. Lab staffing included those at Preston Hall and Pembury Hospital sites
2010	39.56	20.0	From Feb 2010 service is also provided to Medway Hospital (service transfer)
2011	38.16	20.4	
2012	38.16	21.1	
2013	57.56	28.0	From May 2013 service also included Dartford Hospital (service transfer)
2014	48.69	28.19	
2015	48.66	26.19	
2016	52.36	24.13	
2017	50.33	26.13	
2018	50.74	27.05	
2019	49.70	23.80	
2020	52.10	26.55	
2021	52.10	25.55	
2022	52.10	265.55	

Sections 4: Histology turnaround times

YEAR	AVERAGE HISTOLOGY TAT IN DAYS	% OF HISTOLOGY CASES REPORTED IN 10 DAYS	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008	No data	77%	The Trust system does not lend itself to calculating a TAT average
2009	No data	73%	
2010	No data	54%	
2011	No data	75%	
2012	No data	81%	
2013	No data	45%	
2014	No data	47%	
2015	No data	53%	
2016	No data	67%	
2017	No data	73%	
2018	No data	72%	
2019	No data	70%	
2020	No data	70%	
2021	No data	58%	
2022	No data	51%	

Section 5: Histology budgets

Due to the amount of information supplied in the previous responses the Trust is applying Section 43 of the Act to this question.