

Trust Board
SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

MEETING	Trust Board – Public	Ref No. 7.5
DIRECTOR	Cancer and Specialist Services	Date 2 Sept 2021
Works to CL3 Laboratory on Belfast City Hospital site		
Purpose	<p><i>To gain Trust Board approval for funding of works to CL3 Laboratory @£1,140k that has been allocated General Capital funding.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional mycobacterial laboratory is located in the BHSCT and provides all mycobacterial diagnostic tests for the BHSCT and the SEHSCT. In addition to this it performs susceptibility testing for isolates referred from each of the other three HSC trusts. <p>Funding is required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Address the current risks to maintaining the mycobacteria testing service for the Belfast and South Eastern Trusts and 2) Meet the requirements for a centralised mycobacteria testing service for the region. <p>Background</p> <p>The CL3 lab was originally designed to be used as an Emergency Laboratory for handling potential viral haemorrhagic fever samples (VHF) and other dangerous pathogens and therefore being used infrequently. However during the project its use was changed to that of <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> (TB) Lab catering for approximately 50% of the regional TB test requirement.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Mycobacterial Reference Laboratory (NIMRL) has been located in the Kelvin Building CL3 facility since late 2007, it handles the TB testing samples from Belfast and SE Trusts. It was installed in the CL3 facility to replace the previous regional reference laboratory sited at the Belfast City Hospital and was part of the amalgamation of the Belfast Trust’s Microbiology services. It is currently the only facility in the Belfast Trust that allows work on Category level 3 pathogens under Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) containment level 3 guidelines. It is also recently been used as the contingency laboratory for dealing with Category 4 pathogens, such as VHF-causative viruses.</p> <p>The NIMRL currently processes all specimens requiring Mycobacterial direct microscopy, direct PCR detection of Mycobacterium tuberculosis and culture requests for the Belfast and South-Eastern Trusts. The direct microscopy and PCR service provided is essential for the rapid detection of potentially infectious Mycobacterium tuberculosis patients, particularly in a clinical setting.</p> <p>Additionally, in its regional capacity the NIMRL is the only facility in Northern Ireland that can perform identification of positive cultures of mycobacterial species and perform direct sensitivity testing of Mycobacterium tuberculosis/bovis isolates. This is a vital clinical service for the detection, confirmation, treatment and management of patients with tuberculosis infection in Northern Ireland.</p>	

	Also, In view of the recent decision to regionally coordinate and repatriate IGRA testing The MVSF has asked to the review the potential consolidation of mycobacterial laboratory testing as a whole and proposes that mycobacterial testing is centralised to the Belfast trust.
Corporate Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety, Quality and Experience • Service Delivery • Resources
Key areas for consideration	<p><i>Outline recommendations being brought forward for approval:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconfiguration of the existing space to ensure suitable accommodation of 2/3 safety cabinets to meet demands of the service. • Compliance with Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) containment level 3 guidelines. • Addressing Health and Safety risk to staff through replacement ventilation systems • To ensure plan can be designed, planned and implemented funding to be secured over a two year timeframe. <p>A new build that can facilitate a potential doubling of our current (pre-pandemic) processing workload will be essential. A future new build ideally should be situated as close to current Microbiology services as possible due to intimate shared nature of our specimen requests and services.</p>
Recommendations	For Approval