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Histology and Cellular Pathology

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.**

23.83.

2. **How many Histology cases were reported in the following period, overall and by the following sub-specialties**

- a. **Dermatology = 12,408**
- b. **gastro-intestinal = 28,886**
- c. **urology = 4,915**
- d. **gynaecology = 5,976**
- e. **breast = 3,690**
- f. **thoracic = 1,033**
- g. **head and neck = 3,487**
- h. **other = 7,310**
- i. **total cases reported = 67,705**

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.**

63,606*.

*estimated based on the number of reporting PA's undertaken by Consultants employed by the authority being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.

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

242 reporting PA's.

- c. **Locum consultants working for the authority.**

0*.

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*Locum figures below not within direct Histopathology reporting within this timeframe.

d. External reporting companies.

3863.

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

- a. Unilabs = 0.
- b. HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs = 0.
- c. SBS (Source Bioscience/LD Path) = 3863.
- d. Cellular Pathology Services Limited = 0.
- e. Diagnexia = 0.
- f. Digital Pathology Partners = 0.
- g. Cytel = 0.
- h. Poundbury Cancer Institute = 0.
- i. Medica = 0.
- j. External reporting companies total = 3863.

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).**

£3,231,104 (does not include recharges for Collective Leadership recharge or Pathology Network etc. as these PAs will be job planned).

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

£120,594 (includes 13.5% for employers' national insurance).

- c. **Locum consultants working for the authority.**

£3,249.

- d. **External reporting companies.**

£205,304 (below).

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

- a. Unilabs = £0.
- b. HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs = £0.
- c. SBS (Source Bioscience/LD Path) = £204,804.00.

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- d. Cellular Pathology Services Limited = £0.**
- e. Diagnexia = £0.**
- f. Digital Pathology Partners = £0.**
- g. Cytel = £0.**
- h. Poundbury Cancer Institute = £500.**
- i. Medica = £0.**
- j. External reporting companies total = £205,304.00.**

*molecular referral tests not direct Histopathology Reporting.

5. Please provide TATs for

a. Molecular testing services for NHS histopathology work

NGS for Colorectal Carcinoma turnaround time	(TAT) 14 days
NGS for Gastric Oesophageal Cancer	TAT 14 days
NGS for Lung Adenocarcinoma	TAT 14 days
NGS for Lung Squamous Cell Carcinoma	TAT 14 days
NGS for Prostate Carcinoma	TAT 14 days
NGS for Malignant Melanoma	TAT 14 days
NGS for Breast Carcinoma	TAT 14 days
NGS for Endometrial Carcinoma	TAT 14 days
NGS for Ovarian Carcinoma	TAT 14 days
NGS for Thyroid Carcinoma	TAT 14 days
NGS for Cholangiocarcinoma	TAT 14 days
IHC – PD-L1 Lung Adenocarcinoma	TAT 14 days
IHC – PD-L1 Squamous Cell Carcinoma Lung	TAT 14 days
IHC – PD-L1 Triple Negative Breast	TAT 14 days
IHC – HER2 Gastric Oesophageal Cancer	TAT 14 days
FISH – Breast	TAT 14 days

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b. Reporting histopathology in cancer cases

The department holds turnaround times by speciality and not by reported condition (cancer cases), an estimate that fulfilling this request would exceed this limit due to the time required to locate, retrieve, and extract the relevant information. As such, we are unable to proceed with the request in its current form. However, we would be happy to assist you in refining your request to bring it within the cost threshold.

Therefore in accordance with Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (fees limit – 18 hours) we are unable to disclose this information as it makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit.

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

N/A Nil.

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

Please see appendix one.

7. Please provide list of pending or closed court cases and the cost of these to the NHS?

At the time of this request, there are 7 ongoing claims in relation to Histology and Cellular Pathology and the total costs to date is £3,240.

There have been 0 cases closed during the time period requested.

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Appendix 1

Number of Suspect Cancer Inpatients and Day cases Waiting over 14 days for a date to come in - 30 June 2025.

Status – Waiting.

Specialty	Day Admit	Inpatient	Total
Anaesthetics		<5	<5
Breast Surgery	20	33	53
Cardiology	<5		
Care of the Elderly	<5		<5
Colorectal Surgery	<5	11	14
Dermatology	51		51
Emergency Medicine	<5		<5
Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)	11	8	19
Gastroenterology	53		53
General Surgery	8	21	29
Gynaecology		<5	<5
Hepatobiliary Surgery		17	17
Hepatology	<5		<5
Interventional Radiology	<5		<5
MDT Diabetic Foot - Vascular	<5		<5
Neurosurgery		<5	<5
Ophthalmology	9		9
Paediatric Haematology		9	9
Paediatric Surgery	<5		<5
Plastic Surgery	<5	5	8
Radiology	<5		<5
Respiratory	42	<5	43
Thoracic Surgery		<5	<5
Transplant and Nephrology Surgery		<5	<5
Upper GI Surgery		9	9
Urology	44	44	88
Vascular Surgery		<5	<5
Total	253	168	421

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Number of Suspect Cancer Patients Waiting over 14 days for a first consultant outpatient appointment - 30 June 2025.

Status – Waiting.

Specialty	Number Waiting
Cardiology	<5
Dermatology	1060
Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)	<5
General Surgery	<5
Gynaecology	11
Gynaecology Oncology	7
Hepatology	<5
Neurosurgery	<5
Orthopaedics	<5
Paediatric Allergy and Immunology	<5
Paediatric Medical Oncology	<5
Paediatric Medicine	<5
Paediatric Respiratory	<5
Grand Total	1090

N.B. We are not able to provide the information requested. Due to low numbers of <5 would reduce numbers to discoverable limits, we consider that individuals could be identified and disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under FOI Act Section 40(2) Personal Information relating to a third party, of the FOI Act.