

28 August 2025

## Pathology Samples and Costs

- **Please advise what private companies / hospitals / clinics Belfast Trust provide pathology analysis and reporting for.**
- **Please provide the volume of samples reported on for each of those companies / hospitals / clinics for the last 5 financial years.**

We consider these two questions in conjunction with the information provided in question 3 would be exempt from release under Section 41 Information provided in confidence and Section 43 Commercial Interests of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 41 (information provided in confidence): This section of the Act permits a public authority to withhold information which was provided in confidence.

Section 41 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Section 43 (commercial interests): This section of the Act permits a public authority to withhold information if it would prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority) holding it.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption and requires a public interest test (PIT). The PIT has been completed and the outcome is to maintain the exemption and withhold information from release.

In reaching this decision the Trust consulted with the third party supplier(s) for their view and their expressed views and concerns have been taken into account.

The outcome of the public interest test is that it would not be in the public interest where the disclosure would prejudice the commercial interests of external provider(s): making public sensitive commercial information. In reaching this decision to withhold some of the information requested, the Trust has considered fully its commitment to ensuring openness and transparency, where reasonably practicable, in all its activities.

- **Please provide the costs that have been invoiced to those companies / hospitals / clinics for the last 5 financial years.  
Please see excel spreadsheet with the annual costs.**

The figures provided are the best we can give bearing in mind the following

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1. Activity figures are collected on a calendar year basis (January – December), whilst the financial reports are on a financial year basis (Apr – March) so some adjustments have had to be made which reflects the actual costs per financial year.
2. The Laboratory Management Information System from which the activity figures have been provided was changed during the period in which the figures sought for have been provided.
3. The information provided relates to all private entities for whom a service was provided in the FY 24/25 year only, and for the work carried out for those entities for the previous 5 years.

See table below:

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/05
Company 1	10,055.87	14,324.52	14,142.99	5,555.51	6,453.34
Company 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,411.30	618.89
Company 3	166,561.45	153,295.26	169,276.85	163,955.91	158,737.73
Company 4	N/A	N/A	4,984.97	10,513.26	3,545.70
Company 5	12,155.93	21,366.06	18,972.74	13,904.35	15,023.78
Company 6	2,019.18	2,397.37	1,637.17	2,159.37	1,296.80
Company 7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	76.00
Company 8	8,378.05	22,807.91	19,961.61	24,955.58	33,625.22
Company 9	44.13	189.91	188.83	786.29	301.57
Company 10	N/A	N/A	N/A	16,648.41	15,357.14
Company 11	N/A	N/A	85.54	134.99	97.47
Company 12	204.00	134.18	9.50	54.45	50.89
Company 13	12,436.01	23,437.46	26,219.03	15,826.31	14,832.51
Company 14	32,702.55	8,173.82	18,873.48	17,247.75	16,170.84
Company 15	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,028.69	908.88
Company 16	54,440.83	95,627.03	75,941.57	81,037.92	11,854.11
Company 17	194,212.14	290,548.70	240,430.10	135,256.39	60,303.77
Company 18	N/A	10,897.04	26,911.85	15,877.72	3,388.87
Company 19	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,334.04	555.07
Company 20	N/A	3,575.73	40,407.38	5,978.96	7,747.66
Company 21	N/A	N/A	1,364.48	990.15	4,914.97
Company 22	137,652.25	177,217.30	141,196.14	132,203.81	177,586.11
Company 23	N/A	11,975.04	6,934.20	28,666.70	38,944.70
Company 24	606.21	637.72	272.70	3,935.00	1,051.78
Company 25	2,031.92	2,309.86	1,162.85	1,509.32	873.25
Company 26	N/A	N/A	16,580.13	12,997.53	19,033.80
Company 27	740,069.23	995,544.86	737,548.90	474,716.96	900,172.00

- **Please advise if the services provided cover private patients, solely Belfast Trust patients or other Trust patients.**

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These services cover private patients as well as patients from each and all of the Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland who may refer patients to the independent sector.

- **Please advise how Belfast Trust determines which private companies it will supply histopathology services to.**

Belfast Trust considers any request to provide such a service along set criteria of eligibility based on laboratory and clinical resource availability.

- **Please advise how results are disseminated or accessed i.e. by paper in the post or electronically. If electronically via what system and how?**

Since the introduction of the Winpath Laboratory Management Information System in November 2024 results are almost always issued electronically. Most independent sector organisations have been provided with CyberLab access on request, which delivers a restricted view of results on Lab requests they have submitted for testing.