

25 February 2026

Cellular Pathology not sent to or reported by local Trust Laboratories

Provide information relating to the use of third-party / private sector / independent sector providers for the technical and professional activity with regards cellular pathology samples (histopathology and/or cytopathology) where these are processed and reported within the independent sector. The data in question is for any service managed or commissioned by the DoH/ SPPG where samples are not processed with local Northern Ireland Trust Laboratories, but are sent to the private sector.

Specifically, I am requesting the following information for the most recent financial year 2024-25, or if more appropriate, the last 12 months:

1. A list of clinics or services; that have been undertaken in the specified timeframe where cellular pathology samples taken are not sent to or reported by local Trust laboratories. Please indicate the medical speciality and include the cost for each clinic and provider. (Activity should be grouped by clinic)

Clinic/ service/other provider (of clinic)	Third party provider (of clinic)	Third party provider of pathology services	Medical Sub-speciality of clinic	Pathology - number of cases sent/ reported.	Pathology Cost - total spend for provider over stated timeframe)

*please insert more rows when needed.

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2. For each third-party pathology provider please state how the pathology report is managed and recorded within Northern Ireland Medical Records (e.g. encompasses, etc).

3. For each third-party pathology provider please state if the contract includes any of the following; IT interfaces directly to NI HSC systems, Pathology / Pathologist support for Multi-disciplinary team meetings, additional clinical advance post reporting.

Belfast Trust do not hold this information.

Please refer your request to foi@health-ni.gov.uk