

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – HISTOPATHOLOGY

I write in response to your request for information in relation to histopathology services in NHS Lothian.

Question:

For the period April 1st to December 31st 2023, 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 31/12/2023.

Answer:

23.25 WTE consultants were employed on this date.

Question:

2. How many histology cases were reported in the following period, overall and by the following sub-specialties: dermatology; gastro-intestinal; urology; gynaecology; breast; thoracic; head and neck; other; total cases reported.

Answer:

This information is detailed in the table below:

Histology cases reported, 1 April – 1 December 2023, NHS Lothian	
Specialty	Number of reports
Dermatology	8,112
Gastro-intestinal	11,385
Urology	4,513
Gynaecology	4,929
Breast	4,516
Thoracic	1,550
Head and neck	1,042
Other	10,472
Total cases reported	47,519

Question:

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.

Answer:

44,716 cases.

Question:

b) consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.

Answer:

This information is not collected centrally. Information may be held in individual staff records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to match up each consultant reporting a case to their employee record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Question:

c) locum consultants working for the authority

Answer:

There have been no locum consultant histopathologists working for NHS Lothian during this period.

Question:

d) external reporting companies. Please provide a total number of cases and the number reported by each of the following: Unilabs; HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs; Source LD Path (previously Source Bioscience, and LD Path limited); Cellular Pathology Services Limited; Diagnexia; Digital Pathology Partners; Cytel (including their subsidiary Pathognomics); Poundbury Cancer Institute; Medica; external reporting companies total

Answer:

Source LD Path (previously Source Bioscience, and LD Path limited) have reported 1,731 cases during this period. The other companies have not been used.

Question:

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)

Answer:

The spend was £3,745,895.80.

Question:

b) consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.

Answer:

Spend on additional hours was £259,430.

Question:

c) locum consultants working for the authority.

Answer:

There have been no locum consultant histopathologists working for NHS Lothian during this period.

Question:

d) external reporting companies. Please provide a total spend and the spend with each of the following: Unilabs; HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs; Source LD Path (previously Source Bioscience, and LD Path limited); Cellular Pathology Services Limited; Diagnexia; Digital Pathology Partners; Cytel (including their subsidiary Pathognomics); Poundbury Cancer Institute; Medica; external reporting companies total.

Answer:

£92,304.25 was spent with Source LD Path (previously Source Bioscience, and LD Path limited).

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive