

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – HISTOLOGY SERVICES

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

Question:

1a How many whole time equivalent histopathology consultants (as defined by being on the GMC specialist register for pathology) were employed by the trust as of 31/12/25.

Answer:

40 WTE consultants.

Question:

1b Of these, how many WTE posts were: i) Substantive consultants; ii) Long-term locum consultants (contracts ≥ 3 months) iii) Other medical staff undertaking consultant-level histopathology reporting (please specify grade)

Answer:

All consultants are substantive posts and there are no long term locum consultants employed. There is also one speciality doctor.

Question:

2. How many histology cases were reported for patients treated by the Trust in the period, overall and by the following sub-specialties: i) Dermatology; ii) Gastro-intestinal; iii) Genitourinary; iv) Gynaecology; v) Breast; vi) Oral; vii) Head and neck; viii) Other (please specify if possible); ix) Total histology cases reported

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below. These figures do not include cases reported by external providers, because we are not provided with the data to break these reports down by sub specialty. A further 1,890 cases were reported by an external provider, details in answer to the questions below.

| Histology cases reported, NHS Lothian, 1 April - 30 September 2025 | |
|--|-----------------|
| Sub specialty | Number of cases |
| Dermatology | 4,869 |

| Histology cases reported, NHS Lothian, 1 April - 30 September 2025 | |
|---|------------------------|
| Sub specialty | Number of cases |
| Gastro-intestinal | 7,108 |
| Genitourinary | 2,640 |
| Gynaecology | 4,348 |
| Breast | 3,697 |
| Oral | 942 |
| Head and neck | 752 |
| Endocrine | 288 |
| Thoracic | 1,123 |
| Neuropath | 664 |
| Osteoarticular | 853 |
| Paediatric and perinatal | 837 |
| Renal | 631 |
| Haemopath | 779 |
| Total | 30,632 |

Question:

3. Of the total histology cases reported in the period, please give the percentage that were reported as: i) General histopathology (non-subspecialist service); ii) Sub-specialist histopathology.

Answer:

3.6% were reported as general histopathology and 96.4% as sub-specialist histopathology.

Question:

4. How many of the total cases given above were reported by: i) Consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract Programmed Activities or PAs; ii) Consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work; iii) Locum consultants working for the authority; iv) External reporting companies.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below.

| Histology reporting, NHS Lothian, 1 April – 30 September 2026 | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Reporting | Number of cases reported |
| Consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract Programmed Activities or PAs | 29,922 |
| Consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work; | 710 |



| Histology reporting, NHS Lothian, 1 April – 30 September 2026 | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Reporting | Number of cases reported |
| Locum consultants working for the authority; | 0 |
| External reporting companies. | 1,890 |

Question:

5. Please provide the total number of cases for each of the following providers, and for each provider the number of cases reported in the period, broken down by type of work: broken down by Pre-prepared material (glass) and/or Lab services (sample or block): i) Unilabs; ii) HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs; iii) Source LD Path (previously Source Bioscience, and LD Path limited); iv) Cellular Pathology Services Limited; v) Diagnexia; vi) Digital Pathology Partners; vii) Cytel (including their subsidiary Pathognomics); viii) Poundbury Cancer Institute; ix) Medica; x) Other provider (please specify); xi) External reporting companies total

Answer:

1,890 cases were reported by Source LD path. None were reported by any other external provider.

Question:

6. Please provide a total spend in GBP with each of the following in relation to the reporting of histology cases:

- i) Consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract Programmed Activities or PAs. (salary plus NI plus pension contribution);
- ii) Consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work;
- iii) Locum consultants working for the authority;
- iv) External reporting companies.
- v) Unilabs
- vi) HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs
- vii) Source LD Path
- viii) Cellular Pathology Services Limited
- ix) Diagnexia
- x) Digital Pathology Partners
- xi) Cytel (including their subsidiary Pathognomics)
- xii) Poundbury Cancer Institute
- xiii) Medica
- xiv) Other provider (please specify)

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

Spend on histology reporting, NHS Lothian, 1 April – 30 September 2025

| Reporting | Spend |
|---|------------|
| Consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract Programmed Activities or PAs | £6,855,066 |
| Consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work; | £103,952 |
| Locum consultants working for the authority; | £0 |
| External reporting companies (total) | £388,682 |
| Unilabs | £0 |
| HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs | £0 |
| Source LD Path | £388,682 |
| Cellular Pathology Services Limited | £0 |
| Diagnexia | £0 |
| Digital Pathology Partners | £0 |
| Cyted (including their subsidiary Pathognomics) | £0 |
| Poundbury Cancer Institute | £0 |
| Medica | £0 |
| Other provider (please specify) | £0 |

Question:

7. How many vacancies does the Trust currently have for consultant pathologists and in what sub-specialities are these vacancies. If "general" please state.

Answer:

On 31 December 2025 there were 2 consultant vacancies. These were for GI and for skin.

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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