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Date 21 August 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11763

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – HISTOPATHOLOGY

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

Question:

1. What was your total histopathology department case volume for in each of the two most recent completed financial years (FY24/25 and FY25/26) and the % of each which was digital? Please provide the number of final cases (as opposed to slides, blocks or specimens).

Answer:

Year	Volume	Percentage
2024/25	55,953	10% digital
2025/26	54,701	15% digital

Question:

2. Of that volume, how many cases were reported in-house versus outsourced to an external provider in each year, and which external provider(s) were used?

Answer:

All were reported in house.

Question:

3. For outsourced histopathology work, please break down volume and spend according to whether the provider performed the full laboratory process as well as reporting (wet and report), or provided reporting only with the Trust performing all laboratory processing (report only).

Answer:

This workload was not entered into the Histopathology LIMS and results scanned for hospital clinical software such as SCISTROE/TRAK.

Full laboratory process.

Volume is 2,025,626 – 2,106 cases.

Question:

4. For each provider used, please confirm the method of case transfer (glass slide delivery or digital transfer).

Answer:

Source bioscience - wet see above.

Question:

5. For each provider used, please confirm the method of report delivery (email/PDF, secure reporter access to local pathology system, separate provider portal, electronic automation into local pathology system).

Answer:

Source Bioscience - provider portal for results.

Question:

6. What percentage of histopathology cases were reported within 7, 10 and 14 calendar days of receipt over the most recent 12-month period (measured against Royal College of Pathologists key performance indicators)?

Answer:

Unknown.

Question:

7. For outsourced histopathology work, what proportion (by case volume) was sent to each provider as physical glass slides versus as digital whole-slide images?

Answer:

N/A - wet specimens.

Question:

8. What was the total spend on outsourced histopathology reporting in each of the two most recent completed financial years, broken down by provider?

Answer:

Source bioscience

2024/25	£29,528.99
2025/26	£481,416.40

Question:

9. Does the Trust use any insourcing arrangement (a third-party providing reporting or laboratory capacity using the Trust's own facilities or systems)? If so, please state the provider(s), approximate volume, and spend.

Answer:

No.

Question:

10. What percentage of the Trust's in-house histopathology reporting is currently reported digitally?
Please also state the digital pathology deployment status.

Answer:

15% - Philips.

Question:

11. As at 20 July 2026, and expressed in whole-time equivalents (WTE), what is the histopathology reporting workforce (including funded establishment, filled posts, vacancies, and locum or agency cover) for consultant histopathologists?

Answer:

There were 36.5 WTE.

Question:

12. For any current outsourced histopathology reporting contract(s): the start and end dates, extension or renewal options, contract value, and the procurement route or framework used.

Answer:

HTE framework, direct award, 9th April 2026 - 9th April 2027, estimated £480,000.

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 FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head 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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive