

FOI 0261/2025 Response

Request

Dear FOI Officer,

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information regarding pathology services at your Trust/Hospital.

Specifically, I would like to request the following:

1. Pathology Backlog

- The current number of unreported or outstanding pathology cases (e.g., histopathology, cytopathology, or other pathology specialties) as of the latest available date.
- The average turnaround time (TAT) for urgent and routine pathology cases over the last 12 months.
- The highest recorded backlog volumes within the last 12 months.

2. Backlog Management

- Details of how the Trust is currently managing any pathology backlog (e.g., internal overtime, recruitment drives, insourcing teams, outsourcing, digital reporting solutions, etc.).

3. External Spend

For the last three financial years (2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 YTD):

- Total spend on agency locum pathologists.
- Total spend on outsourcing pathology reporting to external providers or private companies.
- The names of any external companies engaged for pathology reporting/outsourcing.

4. Digital Pathology Infrastructure

- Does your Trust currently have a digital pathology reporting structure in place (enabling remote reporting of scanned slides)?
- If yes, which whole-slide scanners are in use (make and model)?
- Does the Trust's current setup allow for remote digital reporting by external pathologists?
- Which Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) is used by your pathology department?

- Are there any plans to expand or adopt digital pathology solutions in the next 12–24 months?

5. Future Plans

- Any documented strategies in place to reduce pathology backlogs, increase reporting capacity, or transition towards digital pathology adoption.

If possible, I would appreciate responses in Excel, CSV, or Word format, with financial figures clearly broken down by year.

Response

We do not have any pathology services.

Please note that Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust explicitly provide mental health services and do not provide physical healthcare like an Acute Trust.