FOI 3473

Date 03/12/2024

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

1. Does the trust/UHB outsource wet surgical specimens?

No

1. If so, how many specimens are outsourced per annum?

N/A

1. What is the subspecialty of the outsourced specimens? E.g. Skin, Endoscopy etc. Please breakdown if possible.

N/A

1. How much does the trust/UHB spend per annum on outsourced wet specimen processing? Please breakdown for the fiscal years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24.

N/A

1. Does the trust report in house on wet processed specimens or is this done externally?

N/A

1. Which organisation(s) does the trust outsource the wet specimen processing to?

N/A

1. Does the trust/UHB outsource blocks for processing?

No

1. How much does the trust spend per annum on outsourced block specimen processing? Please breakdown for the fiscal years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24.

N/A

1. Is there a backlog of unreported specimens with the trust/UHB? If so, for how many patients total?

No

1. What are the current turnaround times (TAT) for the processing of wet specimens within the trust/UHB?

We are unable to produce accurate TATs for the processing of wet specimens (our LIMS does not provide this). They would also vary depending on specimen type.

1. Does the trust outsource for tissue staining?

No

1. How much does the trust/UHB spend on outsourced staining per annum? Please breakdown for the fiscal years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24.

N/A

1. What is the current TA for wet reporting externally?

N/A

1. Does the trust/UHB have a minimum contracted volume with outsourcers?

No

1. What is the min, mean, and max cost for wet work alone?

N/A

1. What is the cost for professional external reporting?

We pay framework costs for external suppliers.

1. How many cases are reported by the trust annually?

48,000

1. What percentage is outsourced for professional work?

23%

1. What percentage is outsourced for technical work?

N/A

1. How many pathologists does the trust/UHB employ?

12 WTE

1. How many cases on average does a single pathologist report annually?

3100

1. Does the trust/UHB have a digital slide scanner?

Yes

1. If so, who is the manufacturer of the scanner? e.g. Phillips, Leica etc.

Philips

This information is provided for your personal use and is the property of Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust and subject to any existing Intellectual Property and Database Rights. Any commercial application or use of this information may be subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 (RPSI). This means that if you wish to re-use the information provided for commercial purposes for any reason you must ask the Trust for permission to do so.

 Please note that the Trust has a formal internal review and complaints process which is managed by the Information Governance Manager/Data Protection Officer. Should you have any concerns with our response, you can make a formal request for an internal review. Requests for internal review should be submitted within three months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter, and should be addressed to: dataprotectionofficer@ldh.nhs.uk. This option is available to you for up to three calendar months from the date your response was issued.

If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF www.ico.org.uk

 Yours sincerely,

 *FOI Officer*

 Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust