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

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Yours sincerely,

*FOI Officer*

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust