

STI Postal Test Kits

Reference Number: RDF1664-23

Date of Response: 19/07/23

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

Dear the FOI team,

Under the FOI Act please provide me with the information below.

My enquiry is in association to your sexual health services at your NHS Trust, not the private provider who may produce and/or process your STI postal test kits on behalf of your Trust, but my enquiry is in relation to how much it costs you to produce, send out and process the tests via the private provider, well as how many tests you send out from your service.

If you do not use a private provider, please ignore references to a private provider.

- 1. How many STI postal test kits on average do you send out a year in total from your sexual health service?*
Answer: 17,065.
- 2. What is the average amount of test kits you send out to service users from your sexual health services a day?*
Answer: 47.
- 3. What is the maximum amount of test kits you have sent out to service users in a day?*
Answer: The Trust collates information for per month, the highest daily average for a month over the last 3 years was 61 per day.
- 4. What is the average percentage of tests that are returned?*
Answer: 73.9% based on the last 3 years.
- 5. What is the range return rate of the percentage of tests that are returned? For example: One provider has told me, "Return rates typically range between 70% and 95% depending on the region, averaging between 75-80%."*
Answer: Over the last 3 years the return rate has varied between 63.45% and 80.46%.

6. *How much does your STI test cost to produce, send out and process, including pathology (the cost of processing the samples)?*

Answer: STI tests costs vary depending on what tests are being undertaken, a common test kit is £20-£25 per test kit including postage and laboratory processing costs.