

Histology Services

Reference Number: RDF1521-23

Date of Response: 13/06/23

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 Sir/Madam

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act to request the following information on cellular pathology services [Histology]

Completion notes

All questions are related to laboratory structure and work completed during the calendar year (full year) unless otherwise indicated.

All questions relate to histopathology only (including routine immunohistochemistry) – please do not include details for Cytology, molecular pathology or any other disciplines unless otherwise stated.

Please complete all questions where possible – if precise data is unavailable, please provide an estimate (stating that data is an estimate plus likely error margin expressed as a percentage). If unable to complete all questions, please provide a partial response. If you are unable to provide data on any of the questions, please note this in the free text area provided for comments against each question.

Section 1: Respondent laboratory and commissioning

Q1: Please provide details of the location of the laboratory responsible for completing your histology workloads, as well as the district that you served for the years indicated.

- Laboratory: This should be the name/location of the laboratory completing most of your histology workloads – if your histology work is completed by a different hospital, please indicate this.*
- District: Please indicate the unitary authority, county, metropolitan district, non-metropolitan district, integrated care board, or other authority that commissions NHS services from your hospital.*

YEAR	LABORATORY	DISTRICT	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2022	Royal Devon	East and North Devon	Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital and North Devon District Hospital histology laboratories merged in 2022

Section 2: Histology workloads

Q2: Please provide details of histology workloads (total cases/total slides) for the years indicated. For slides this should be the total volume including special stains and immunohistochemistry, but should not include cytology, if these cannot be easily filtered out, please indicate this in the free text box.

YEAR	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL SLIDES	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2022	Eastern Services – 31,282 Northern Services – 9,980	232,408 61,837	

Section 3: Histology staffing

Q3: Please provide details of the histology staffing for the years indicated (full time equivalents). This should only be those staff involved in histology, but may include admin staff (e.g., secretaries) if they play a significant role in the completion of the histology workload. This is divided into two areas (laboratory and support/reporting). This should be a total of staff in post only and should not include unfilled vacancies.

- **Laboratory and support (LAB):** Those staff involved in the preparation of laboratory samples – including admin and quality support roles – this should include histology secretaries, medical laboratory assistants, biomedical scientists, this should also include any laboratory senior staff/managers in histology.
- **Reporting (REP):** This should include those staff involved in the preparation of histology reports; this should include pathologists, registrars, clinical scientists, and consultant biomedical scientists.

Where staff numbers have changed through a calendar year (e.g., new staff recruited/staff leaving), please provide an approximate average and note this in the comments box. Should you be unable to provide this data for any of the years indicated please indicate this in the free text box. If providing an estimated response, please note this (along with likely error factor expressed as a percentage) in the free text comments box.

YEAR	LAB STAFF (FTE)	REP STAFF (FTE)	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2022	Eastern Services - 21.43 Northern Services - 10.4	19.01 5.9	Includes 2 FTE addition registrars from August 2022. Northern Services includes Non-Gynae Cytology as it is a combined service & Budget

Sections 4: Histology turnaround times

Q4: Please provide details of turnaround times (TATs) for histology for the years indicated. There are two response options for each year; average histology TAT in days, and % of cases reported in 10 days. Please provide both data sets where possible, however, where this is not possible, please note this in the free text comments box. The TAT response should always be from the date the sample was collected to the date when the initial diagnostic report was authorised/released. This

data should be for histology only, however, if your data includes NG-Cytology, please just note this in the free text comments. Should you be unable to provide this data for any of the years indicated please indicate this in the free text box. If providing an estimated response, please note this (along with likely error factor expressed as a percentage) in the free text comments box.

YEAR	AVERAGE HISTOLOGY TAT IN DAYS	% OF HISTOLOGY CASES REPORTED IN 10 DAYS	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2022	Eastern Services - 8.5 Northern Services – 9	73% 71%	

Section 5: Histology budgets

Q 5: Please provide details on histology budgets for the years indicated, this should be the total budget for delivering histopathology services in the years indicated. If other services such as NG-Cytology are included as part of this budget, and it is not possible to separate them please indicate this in the free text comments. Should you be unable to provide this data for any of the years indicated please indicate this in the free text box. If providing an estimated response, please note this (along with likely error factor expressed as a percentage) in the free text comments box.

YEAR	HISTOPATHOLOGY BUDGETS	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2022	Eastern Services - £3,815,322 Northern Services - £1,584,000	The budget figures provided are for financial year 2022/23. Northern Services budget includes Non-Gynae Cytology as it is a combined service & Budget