

Questionnaire (FOI request)

Completion notes

All questions are related to laboratory structure and work completed during the calendar years indicated (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.

Questions relate to four key concepts and seek to examine how these have changed over time:

- Workloads
- Staffing
- Turnaround times
- Budgets

It is hoped that this may help highlight the increasing pressures being experienced by histology laboratories throughout the UK.

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 (just completing the data that you can).

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.

Should you be unable to provide details for any of the years indicated please note this in the free text comments box.

YEAR	LABORATORY	DISTRICT	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008	Dept of Cellular Pathology, Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Standing Way, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK6 5LD		Current trust title. This would have differed throughout the period 2008 – 2022, as the hospital became a foundation trust and then a university hospital. Histology services have been provided on this site throughout the period 2008 to 2022.
2009	“		“
2010	“		“
2011	“		“
2012	“		“
2013	“		“
2014	“		“
2015	“		“
2016	“		“
2017	“		“
2018	“	BLMK (STP)	“
2019	“	BLMK (STP)	“
2020	“	BLMK (STP)	“
2021	“	BLMK (STP)	“
2022	“	ICB	“

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. 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	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL SLIDES	FREE TEXT COMMENTS
2008	17364	71278	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.
2009	17647	78452	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.
2010	18127	81393	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.
2011	18580	69105	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.
2012	18091	62877	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.

2013	18734	73878	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.
2014	18767	79167	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.
2015	19134	82037	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.
2016	21130	84533	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.
2017	21360	88712	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.
2018	21816	99917	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.
2019	22035	95093	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.
2020	17046	82668	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.
2021	21031	101038	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.
2022	22417	108580	Figures for total cases and slides includes both histology and NG-cytology. It has not been possible to filter out cytology cases.

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
2008			It is not possible to provide the data requested.
2009			It is not possible to provide the data requested.
2010			It is not possible to provide the data requested.
2011			It is not possible to provide the data requested.
2012			It is not possible to provide the data requested.
2013			It is not possible to provide the data requested.
2014			It is not possible to provide the data requested.
2015			It is not possible to provide the data requested.
2016			It is not possible to provide the data requested.
2017			It is not possible to provide the data requested.
2018			It is not possible to provide the data requested.
2019	20.59	6.80	Average of FTE of ESR Job Roles to match your description
2020	24.29	7.30	Average of FTE of ESR Job Roles to match your description
2021	24.77	7.34	Average of FTE of ESR Job Roles to match your description
2022	28.00	7.39	Average of FTE of ESR Job Roles to match your description

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
2008			Data does not exist in an extractable format
2009			Data does not exist in an extractable format
2010			Data does not exist in an extractable format
2011			Data does not exist in an extractable format
2012			Data does not exist in an extractable format
2013			Data does not exist in an extractable format
2014			Data does not exist in an extractable format
2015			Data does not exist in an extractable format
2016			Data does not exist in an extractable format
2017			Data does not exist in an extractable format

2018	15	59%	It is not possible to provide average TAT for 2018. % of cases reported in 10 days includes histology and NG-cytology cases. For 2018 the 10-day TAT is based on data from April to December. Data for January to March 2018 is not available.
2019	11	60%	It is not possible to provide average TAT for 2019. % of cases reported in 10 days includes histology and NG-cytology cases.
2020	9	78%	It is not possible to provide average TAT for 2020. % of cases reported in 10 days includes histology and NG-cytology cases.
2021	12	61%	It is not possible to provide average TAT for 2021. % of cases reported in 10 days includes histology and NG-cytology cases.
2022	14	52%	Average histology TAT and % of cases reported in 10 days includes histology and NG-cytology cases.

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
2008		Financial info not available
2009		Financial info not available
2010		Financial info not available
2011		Financial info not available
2012		Financial info not available
2013		Financial info not available
2014		Financial info not available
2015		Financial info not available
2016		Financial info not available
2017		Financial info not available
2017		
2018-19	£2,130,347	This is financial year - includes cytology
2019-20	£2,437,646	This is financial year - includes cytology
2020-21	£2,664,416	This is financial year - includes cytology
2021-22	£2,857,952	This is financial year - includes cytology