

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information which we received on Friday 13th October 2023. I am pleased to confirm the following.

1. Please table the hospitals or other acute sites currently submitting blood cultures and for each site-

we only have one MKUH site.

i) Are blood cultures incubated and/or processed on site or sent to a microbiology laboratory off site?

Yes, to both.

ii) If incubated or processed off site, what is the distance in miles between the site and the offsite laboratory?

iii) How many blood culture sets were submitted from each site in 2022/23?

See table below.

iv) Number of bed days for all patients per site

	Name of acute site	Blood incubated on-site? Y/N	Blood Processed on site? Y/N	Distance to off-site lab in miles	No. cultures submitted 2022/2023 Adults and paed	Number of bed days 2022/23
1.	MKUH	Y	Y	N/A	Adults = 9014 Paeds = 2294	594
2.						

Does the Trust follow the UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations (SMI S12) in relation to Blood Cultures?

Yes

3. Do you undertake formal compliance audits of the recommended pre-analytical standard for blood cultures of a four hour TAT from collection to incubation?

Yes – we monitor as KPI on a monthly basis.

4. What percentage of blood culture sets achieved this standard in the year 2022/23 at each site.

71%, delays mainly associated with sample arriving in Lab from time sample taken.

If full compliance with the pre analytical standard cannot be met, are clinicians made aware of the risk via a statement in the report on specimens which encountered delay?

No but comms are circulated to Trust to advise of the standard

	Name of site	% achieving 4-hr TAT	Delayed incubation reported Y/N
1.	MKUH	86%	Y
2.			
3.			
4.			

Comments:

5. What is the population served by the Trust?

270,200

6. What was the total expenditure on laboratory services (directorate of pathology) as a percentage of total Trust expenditure in the year 2022/23?

4.23%

7. Please append a copy of your blood culture protocol or policy or other document which informs clinical staff when they should take a blood culture.



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If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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