

Email: foi.tsdfd@nhs.net
Our Ref: TSD10662

Dear Sir/Madam

Request for Information

We are writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information you requested.

A copy of the information is below:

Monthly cellular pathology (histology) activity, turnaround-time and service-improvement information for the three financial years 2023/24 to 2025/26.

This data is held within the laboratory information system (LIMS), so I should be grateful if this request could be directed to the histology / cellular pathology department.

Monthly figures are requested only for the three most recent financial years, when these data are most likely to be held. Please provide all the data that you are able to; a partial response is welcome — complete the months you can. Where a service improvement was not yet in use, please enter 0 (or 'not in use'). Estimates are acceptable; please flag any estimate and an approximate margin (%) in the comments.

Completion notes and definitions

- **All figures relate to histopathology only, including routine immunohistochemistry. Please exclude non-gynaecological cytology, molecular pathology and other disciplines; note in comments if they cannot be separated.**
- **Each row is one calendar month within the financial year (April–March); please report the figure for that month.**
- **Total cases reported = histology cases authorised that month (a case = one request/specimen). Cases reported ≤10 calendar days = of those, the number with receipt-to-authorisation of 10 calendar days or fewer (RCPath basis).**
- **Total slides / blocks produced = all slides (incl. levels, special stains, IHC) and all paraffin blocks embedded that month.**

- **% cases dissected by BMS = of cases cut-up that month, the % where dissection was performed by a biomedical scientist (vs medical staff).**
We do not record this figure separately; however, approximately 20% of dissection and biopsy transfer work is completed by a BMS.
- **% cases reported by BMS = % of cases where the primary diagnostic report was issued by a reporting BMS (ASD/equivalent).**
0%
- **% blocks automatically embedded = % of paraffin blocks embedded using an automated embedding platform.**
0%
- **% blocks automatically sectioned = % of blocks cut by automated microtomy (vs manual sectioning).**
0%
- **% cases reported digitally = % of cases where the primary diagnosis was made on whole-slide (digital) images rather than glass.**
Currently 0% but the lab is now clinically live to report digitally.
- **% cases reported with AI assistance = % of cases where an AI tool was used in the diagnostic / reporting pathway.**
0%
- **If a percentage is difficult, a count plus the denominator (in comments) is equally welcome; enter 0 where a measure was not yet in use.**

Respondent details

ITEM	YOUR RESPONSE
Name of pathology network	Peninsula pathology
Name of laboratory completing your histology work	Torbay and South Devon Foundation NHS Trust
Is your histology performed by another trust / network hub laboratory? (Yes/No — if Yes, which)	No however all breast work is outsourced to Poundbury Cancer Institute
Level of pathology network maturity	The Trust does not hold a formally recorded maturity level for the pathology network. Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust is part of the Peninsula Pathology Network, but we do not hold a specific maturity rating for the network

Q1. Monthly activity and turnaround times

MONTH	TOTAL CASES REPORTED	CASES REPORTED ≤10 CALENDAR DAYS	TOTAL SLIDES PRODUCED	TOTAL BLOCKS PRODUCED
Apr 2023	1424	N/A > 90%	5479	3035
May 2023	1714	N/A > 90%	7188	3762
Jun 2023	1751	N/A > 90%	7060	4112
Jul 2023	1696	N/A > 90%	6508	3561
Aug 2023	1625	N/A > 90%	6508	3626
Sep 2023	1564	N/A > 90%	6072	3398
Oct 2023	1775	N/A > 90%	7629	3855
Nov 2023	1909	N/A > 90%	7008	4144
Dec 2023	1666	N/A > 90%	6147	3540
Jan 2024	1975	N/A > 90%	7842	4490
Feb 2024	1641	N/A > 90%	7014	3941
Mar 2024	1536	N/A > 90%	6149	3048
Apr 2024	1629	N/A > 90%	6452	3477
May 2024	1596	N/A > 90%	6444	3595
Jun 2024	1517	N/A > 90%	6116	3371
Jul 2024	1604	N/A > 90%	7091	3828
Aug 2024	1236	N/A > 90%	5442	3141
Sep 2024	1268	N/A > 90%	4658	2983
Oct 2024	1418	N/A > 90%	5799	3214
Nov 2024	1381	N/A > 90%	6237	3398
Dec 2024	1407	1266	3499	2462
Jan 2025	1671	1619	5129	3789
Feb 2025	1631	1560	5654	4093
Mar 2025	1762	1670	5833	4305
Apr 2025	1615	1475	5379	4031
May 2025	1805	1663	5040	3644
Jun 2025	1762	1700	5476	4093
Jul 2025	1811	1711	1551	4105
Aug 2025	1619	1544	5207	3709
Sep 2025	1580	1485	5274	3962
Oct 2025	1700	1582	5507	3906
Nov 2025	1467	1089	4529	3488
Dec 2025	1319	727	4407	3394
Jan 2026	1152	581	5038	3717
Feb 2026	708	543	4304	3378
Mar 2026	1161	648	5321	4032

Q2. Monthly service-improvement measures (%)

Percentage of work each month; enter 0 (or 'not in use') where the technology / role was not yet in use.

MONTH	% CASES DISSECT ED BY BMS	% CASES REPORTED BY BMS	% BLOCKS AUTO- EMBEDDED	% BLOCKS AUTO- SECTIONED	% CASES REPORTED DIGITALLY	% CASES REPORTED WITH AI
Apr 2023	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
May 2023	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Jun 2023	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Jul 2023	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Aug 2023	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Sep 2023	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Oct 2023	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Nov 2023	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Dec 2023	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Jan 2024	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Feb 2024	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Mar 2024	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Apr 2024	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
May 2024	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Jun 2024	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Jul 2024	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Aug 2024	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Sep 2024	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0

Oct 2024	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Nov 2024	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Dec 2024	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Jan 2025	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Feb 2025	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Mar 2025	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Apr 2025	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
May 2025	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Jun 2025	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Jul 2025	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Aug 2025	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Sep 2025	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Oct 2025	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	Not in Use	0
Nov 2025	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	17	0
Dec 2025	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	<5	0
Jan 2026	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	<5	0
Feb 2026	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	0	0
Mar 2026	Approx. 20%	0	Not in Use	Not in Use	0	0

Low Numbers:

Where there are less than 5, we are unable to provide the exact information you require as this may enable the identification of our employees, members of the public or patients. This would constitute personal information and would be considered exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40 (FOI Act) provides an exemption to disclosure, where disclosure would contravene any of the Data Protection principles. This exemption is an absolute exemption that is not subject to the public interest test. Where the information relates to an individual who can be identified from that data, or from that data when added to other information, in the possession of, or likely to come into the possession of the data controller, this meets the definition of personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact us, quoting the FOI reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the way in which we have handled your request, please contact the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Lead in the first instance. If you wish to make a formal complaint, you should write to our Complaints Manager at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, First Floor Bowyer Building, Torbay Hospital, Torquay TQ2 7AA or by email to tsdft.feedback@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will only make a decision once you have exhausted the complaints and/or internal review process provided by us. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through this link <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team