

Date: **10 October 2019**

Our reference: **FOIRQ5450**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your request for information processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see our response to your requests for information below:

Your Request and Our Response (in bold)

Please see our response to your request for information from Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust:

1. *How many laboratories (please include breakdown of sites/disciplines if possible) are there in your Trust?* **Haematology/ Blood Transfusion, Chemical Pathology, Histology/Mortuary, Immunology/ cell therapy, Microbiology/Virology**
2. *What is the headcount of laboratory staff (please include breakdown of sites/departments/roles if possible) in your Trust?* **Haematology/ Blood Transfusion (43.5wte), Chemical Pathology (74), Histology/ Mortuary (27), Immunology (17), Microbiology / Virology (40)**
3. *How many patient samples or 'reportable laboratory activities' are processed (please include breakdown of sites/departments if possible) by your Trust's laboratories each year (please include the three most recent available years' numbers)?* **Please see our response for financial years 2016/17 – 2018/19 below:**

2016/17

Blood Transfusion	42426
Bone Marrow Lab	10205
Chemical Pathology	442448
Enzymology	9770
Haematology	155376
Histopathology	10135
Immunology	23117
Microbiology	159973
New Born Screening	1127804
Virology	94164
<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>2,075,418</u>

2017/18

Blood Transfusion	40197
Bone Marrow Lab	9960
Chemical Pathology	454680
Enzymology	10595
Haematology	164791
Histopathology	10782
Immunology	23742
Microbiology	156913
Virology	94707
<u>New born screening</u>	<u>1,111,480</u>
<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>2,077,847</u>

2018/19

Blood Transfusion	41982
Bone Marrow lab	11156
Chemical Pathology	447685
Enzymology	8920
Haematology	172818
Histopathology	10723
Immunology	23445
Microbiology	150042
Virology	94493
<u>New born Screening</u>	<u>1,104019</u>
<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>2,001,464</u>

4. What number (and percentage) of your Trust's patients have a sample processed in a laboratory as part of their treatment? **There are 438363 internal patients in OMNI as a downstream system from our old patient administration system; we do receive all patients via ADT. However the Patient tables within the Cache database OMNI uses do not have the necessary columns indexed to show the audit date of the time the patient record was created in OMNI, therefore, it is not possible to search and refine the data with the time period specified.**

We do not centrally record this information and would require one member of staff to further conduct a search of the systems and individual records to identify, locate and extract the relevant information. We have estimated the level of work required would exceed the cost limit of 18 hours under Section 12 (Cost Limit) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. Please see note below**

5. *How many patient samples are taken by your Trust but not processed/analysed by your Trust's laboratory staff? (IE: outsourced)*
17,245
6. *If any, where are outsourced patient samples sent? (please include company names/addresses and number of samples sent each year)*
The Trust does not centrally record this level of information across all the labs depending on their local policy and structure. We would be unable to capture this information or their locations, for example, one lab could potentially send away approximately 650 tests per month, which means we would have to check each one individually to validate that a test was sent away and confirm the location where it was sent out. We have estimated that to check each test would take approximately 1 minute per record, which means checking a minimum of 650 records for just one lab section. Your request has been estimated to exceed the cost limit of 18 hours under Section 12 (Cost Limit) of the FOIA. Please see note below**

Please NoteThe combined work required in answering your questions 4 and 6 would most definitely exceed the cost limit stipulated under Section 12 of the FOIA.**

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows the Trust to refuse a request where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for Section 12 purposes is defined by The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 - SI 2004 No. 3244 ('Fees Regulation').

Under regulation 3 of the Fees Regulation the appropriate cost limit for the Trust is £450. The Fees Regulation also states that all authorities should calculate the time spent on the permitted activities at the flat rate of £25 per person, per hour. This means that the appropriate limit will be exceeded, if it would require more than 18 hours' work for the Trust to carry out the following activities in complying with the request:

- **determining whether the information is held**
- **locating the information, or a document containing it;**
- **retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and**
- **extracting the information from a document containing it.**

Please note:

The information provided under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is the information held on the date your request was received by the Trust.

We trust the information provided is sufficient and helped to answer any issues, concerns or questions. Should you have any further queries in relation to this request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Team and quote the above reference number on any related correspondence.

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Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information team

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust
Email: foiteam@gosh.nhs.uk

[Enclosed – Your rights – see next page]

Your Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have received to your request for information, please contact the FOI team and quote your reference number on all correspondence relating to your request.

You can also write to the Head of Quality & Safety at the following address:

Quality & Safety team
Great Ormond Street Hospital
LONDON
WC1N 3JH

If you are still not satisfied with your response, you also have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner.

You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF