

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.19619.26
<b>Subject:</b>	Histology
<b>Date of Request:</b>	16 February 2026

**Requested:**

For the period April 2025 – Present, or the closest 12-month period for which data is available. Please provide the below information:

If you cannot provide data for the exact period requested, please state clearly the period used.

- 1a. How many whole time equivalent histopathology consultants (as defined by being on the GMC specialist register for pathology) were employed by the trust as of 31/12/25
- 1b. Of these, how many WTE posts were:
  - Substantive consultants
  - Long-term locum consultants (contracts  $\geq 3$  months)
  - Other medical staff undertaking consultant-level histopathology reporting (please specify grade)
2. How many histology cases were reported for patients treated by the Trust in the period, overall and by the following sub-specialties:
  - Dermatology
  - Gastro-intestinal
  - Genitourinary
  - Gynaecology
  - Breast
  - Oral
  - Head and neck
  - Other (please specify if possible)
  - Total histology cases reported
3. Of the total histology cases reported in the period, please give the percentage that were reported as:
  - General histopathology (non-subspecialist service)
  - Sub-specialist histopathology
4. How many of the total cases given above were reported by:
  - Consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract Programmed Activities or PAs.
  - Consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.
  - Locum consultants working for the authority
  - External reporting companies.
5. Please provide the total number of cases for each of the following providers, and for each provider the number of cases reported in the period, broken down by type of work: broken down by Pre-prepared material (glass) and/or Lab services (sample or block)
  - Unilabs
  - HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs

- Source LD Path (previously Source Bioscience, and LD Path limited)
- Cellular Pathology Services Limited
- Diagnexia
- Digital Pathology Partners
- Cytel (including their subsidiary Pathognomics)
- Poundbury Cancer Institute
- Medica
- Other provider (please specify)
- External reporting companies total

6. Please provide a total spend in GBP with each of the following in relation to the reporting of histology cases:

- Consultants (or other medical staff) employed by the authority during their contract Programmed Activities or PAs. (salary plus NI plus pension contribution)
- Consultants employed by the authority, being paid additional amounts over and above their salary for additional work.
- Locum consultants working for the authority
- External reporting companies.
- Unilabs
- HCA Laboratories including their subsidiary Backlogs
- Source LD Path
- Cellular Pathology Services Limited
- Diagnexia
- Digital Pathology Partners
- Cytel (including their subsidiary Pathognomics)
- Poundbury Cancer Institute
- Medica
- Other provider (please specify)

7. How many vacancies does the Trust currently have for consultant pathologists and in what sub-specialities are these vacancies. If “general” please state.

**Response:**

1a. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it employed a Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) of 9.00 Histopathology Consultants, at 31 December 2025.

1b. The UHB confirms that of the 9.00 WTE Histopathology Consultants, 2.00 WTE were substantive and 7.00 WTE were long term locum Consultants with contracts of greater than three (3) months.

2. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of patient Histology reports undertaken by the sub-specialties listed, during the period 1 April to 31 December 2025.

<b>Sub-specialty</b>	<b>Number</b>
Dermatology	8,035
Gastro-intestinal	14,951
Genitourinary	6,055
Gynaecology	4,573

Breast	1,572
Oral	0
Head and neck	762
Other (Respiratory)	408
<b>Total histology cases reported</b>	<b>36,356</b>

- The UHB confirms that 100% of the total Histology cases reported during 1 April to 31 December 2025, were reported as General Histopathology.
- The UHB provides the number of cases reported by the listed categories within the table below.

<b>Reported by</b>	<b>Number</b>
Consultants	29,891
Consultants - additional work	6,465
Locum consultants	0
External reporting companies	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,356</b>

- The UHB has not used any external companies for Histology reporting, during the period 1 April to 31 December 2025.
- With regard to spend with external companies, please see response to question 5. However, the UHB provides within the table below, the total Medical and Dental (M&D) Histology staff spend, for the period 1 April 2025 to 28 February 2026.

<b>Histology M&amp;D staff</b>	<b>Spend</b>
Consultants	£1,157,336.00

The UHB is unable to provide the requested information, broken down by job role as it is not within the reasonable expectations of these individuals that their personal data would be put into the public domain. This information is classed as personal data of a third party. Therefore, it is being withheld in accordance with the exemption set out in section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), by virtue of section 40(3)(a) of the FoIA, which permits a public authority to withhold personal data other than the requestor's where the disclosure would breach Data Protection principles.

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

- The UHB does not hold the information exactly as requested. However, the UHB provides within the table overleaf, the budgeted, occupied and vacant WTE of Pathology Consultant vacancies, by Medical and Dental (M&D) pay grade, as recorded on the UHB's Establishment Control Tool and Electronic Staff (ESR) systems, at 31 December 2025.

<b>M&amp;D pay grade</b>	<b>Budgeted WTE</b>	<b>Occupied WTE</b>	<b>Vacant WTE</b>
Associate Specialist	0.1	1.6	(1.6)
Speciality Doctor	1.0	1.0	0.0
Specialist Grade	0.0	3.0	(3.0)
Consultant	13.4	5.6	7.8
Locum Consultant	2.0	5.0	(3.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>