

Reference:	FOI.15753.24
Subject:	Histopathology Service
Date of Request:	18 October 2024

Requested:

Financial Years

2021/2022
2022/2023
2023/2024

“Wet” cases sent out by The Trust

1. How many full wet Histopathology cases (defined as tissue in a formalin container sent to a 3rd party for processing and reporting) were sent out by the Trust
2. How many wet cases (defined as tissue in a formalin container sent to a 3rd party for processing into glass slides only) were sent out by the Trust
3. How many blocks to report cases (defined as a Formalin Fixed Paraffin Embedded - FFPE - histology block sent to a 3rd party for sectioning, staining and reporting) were sent out by the Trust
4. How many total blocks (approximate to within 10%) were sent out by the Trust to a 3rd party
5. How many of the above, for each of the financial years 21/22, 22/23 / 23/24 were sent to the following companies
 - Unilabs
 - Source Bioscience / LD Path PLC
 - Cytel Ltd
 - Poundbury
 - Cellular Pathology Services Ltd
 - Diagnexia Ltd
 - Backlogs Ltd

Backlogs in the Histology Department

6. What is the current backlog number for wet cases in the Histology Lab. Current is defined as of the end of October 2024. This is defined as the number of cases that have been received by the Histology Department but have not been processed (greater than 3 days from receipt)
7. What is the approximate number of uncut blocks in the Histology Lab (defined as histology blocks that have been processed and not sectioned) awaiting sectioning and greater than 5 days old

Histology technical staffing levels

8. How many Biomedical Scientist Staff - BMS- and technical staff does the lab require (as defined as Whole Time Equivalents - WTE - by band) and how many does the Trust have
9. How many BMS and technical vacancies (such as MLA - Medical Lab Assistants) does the Trust currently have open. Please state the number and grades.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) can confirm there have been (0) zero full wet Histopathology cases (defined as tissue in a formalin container sent to a third party for processing and reporting) sent out by the Health Board.
2. The UHB can confirm there have been (0) zero wet cases (defined as tissue in a formalin container sent to a third party for processing into glass slides only) sent out by the Health Board.
3. The UHB can confirm there have been (0) zero histology blocks (defined as a Formalin Fixed Paraffin Embedded - FFPE - histology block sent to a third party for sectioning, staining and reporting) sent out by the Health Board.
4. The UHB can confirm there have been (0) zero blocks sent out by the Health Board to a third party.
5. Not applicable.
6. The UHB can confirm it had (0) zero wet cases received but not processed (greater than 3 days from receipt) in the Histology Laboratory as of 31st October 2024.
7. The UHB can confirm that it has 26 uncut blocks in the Histology Laboratory (defined as histology blocks that have been processed and not sectioned) awaiting sectioning and greater than 5 days' old.
8. The UHB can inform you that the service is budgeted for 30 WTE and currently operates with an actual staffing level of 21 WTE Biomedical Scientist staff (BMS) members. The table below provides the WTE broken down by pay band.

Pay band	WTE
Band 2	2
Band 3	5
Band 4	6
Band 5	3
Band 6	1
Band 7	3
Band 8	1

9. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of BMS and technical vacancies currently available, broken down by band.

Number of WTE vacancies	Grade
2	Band 3
1	Band 5
1	Band 6