

Reference:	FOI.21180.26
Subject:	Pathology Laboratories
Date of Request:	30 July 2026

Requested:

We would be grateful if you could provide the following information relating to your Trust's or Health Board's Pathology services:

1. Which hospitals are part of your Trust or Health Board?
2. Which of these hospitals have Pathology Laboratories?
3. Which National Pathology Network does your organisation belong to?
4. Does your Pathology service operate in partnership with any other NHS Trusts or laboratories? If yes, please provide details.
5. What Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS/LIS) is currently used by your Pathology service? Please include the supplier and product name where possible.
6. Is your LIMS/LIS deployed as:
 - a. A single-site instance
 - b. A Trust-wide solution
 - c. A Pathology Network-wide solution
 - d. Other (please specify)
7. When is the current LIMS/LIS contract due to expire? If known, please also provide any extension options.
8. Do you operate Blood Transfusion Laboratories? If so, at which hospital sites?
9. Do you currently use an Electronic Blood Tracking solution? If yes, please state the supplier and product name.
10. Do you use a dedicated Transfusion Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS/LIS)? If yes, please state the supplier and product name.
11. Is there an individual or team responsible for leading Digital Transformation within Pathology or Diagnostics? If possible, please provide
 - a. Name (where this is publicly disclosable under the FOI Act)
 - b. Job title
 - c. Department
 - d. If a name cannot be provided, please provide the relevant job title(s) only.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms it has four (4) acute hospital sites which comprise of:
 - Prince Philip Hospital (PPH)

- Glangwili General Hospital (GGH)
- Withybush General Hospital (WGH)
- Bronglais General Hospital (BGH)

2. The UHB confirms that laboratory services are provided across all four (4) sites.
3. The UHB participates in the NHS Wales National Pathology Programme and is part of the developing South West Wales Regional Pathology arrangements/Operational Delivery Network.
4. The UHB confirms its Pathology services do operate in partnership with other NHS Trusts/laboratories. The services participate in a number of All-Wales and regional collaborative arrangements, including Pathology Planning and Operational Delivery Network developments across South West Wales.
5. The UHB's Pathology Service currently uses the NHS Wales Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) delivered by Trak Care Laboratories 2026. However, this is being replaced by TrakCare Lab Enterprise (TCLE), with the new All-Wales LIMS expected to be completed by December 2026.
6. The current LIMS is operated as an All-Wales solution, used across Welsh Health Boards with separate instances for each site.
7. The UHB does not hold the information requested as the LIMS contract is managed by Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW). We therefore recommend that you redirect this part of your request to the Freedom of Information Team in DHCW, who will be able to help you with your enquiry. Contact details are as follows:-

DHCW.FOI@wales.nhs.uk or alternatively, you can contact: Freedom of Information Officer, Digital Health and Care Wales, Ty Glan-yr-Afon, 21 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff CF11 9AD.
8. The UHB confirms that it operates Blood Transfusion laboratory services across all four (4) sites.
9. The UHB does not use an Electronic Blood Tracking solution.
10. The UHB confirms that the Blood Transfusion services currently use Telepath systems, which is separate from the All-Wales Pathology LIMS, however, this will be incorporated into the new All Wales TCLE.
11. The UHB is withholding some of the requested information as it is not within the reasonable expectations of the individuals that their personal data would be released 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.

However, whilst operating in accordance with the Section 45 Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB confirms its Pathology Digital Operations Manager provides digital leadership within the Pathology Service, alongside Service Managers, whilst working in collaboration with the UHB's Digital Services team.