



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_522_24

You asked:

We would ask that you consider the following questions under the FOI act and provide as much detail as is requested please

Financial Years

2021/2022
2022/2023
2023/2024

"Wet" cases sent out by The Health Board

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 Health Board?
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 Health Board?
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 Health Board?
4. How many total blocks (approximate to within 10%) were sent out by the Health Board 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
 - a. Unilabs
 - b. Source Bioscience / LD Path PLC
 - c. Cytel Ltd
 - d. Poundbury
 - e. Cellular Pathology Services Ltd
 - f. Diagnexia Ltd
 - g. 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 Health Board have
9. How many BMS and technical vacancies (such as MLA - Medical Lab Assistants) does the Health Board currently have open? Please state the number and grades.

Our response:

1. Wet histology cases sent out for processing and reporting:

Financial Year	# Wet Cases
2021 / 2022	1,368
2022 / 2023	11,191
2023 / 2024	12,773

2. Wet histology cases sent out for processing to glass slides only:

Financial Year	# Cases wet to glass only
2021 / 2022	0
2022 / 2023	0
2023 / 2024	0

3. Blocks sent out for sectioning, staining and reporting:

Financial Year	# Cases block to reported
2021 / 2022	0
2022 / 2023	89
2023 / 2024	433

4. Total blocks sent out by the health board to a third party:

As per question 3.

5. Issued to the following companies:

All to Source Bioscience / LD Path PLC.

6. Current number of backlogged wet cases (greater than 3 days from receipt):

None.

7. Approx. Number of uncut blocks awaiting sectioning (greater than 5 days old):

None

8. Number of BMS and Technical Staff the lab requires vs the actual number the Health Board has (*expressed as W.T.E.s*):

Staff grade	Current WTE	Required WTE To include work to be disaggregated from SBUHB but based on current work model (5 day working)
Advanced Biomedical Scientist staff	1.0	2.0
Senior Biomedical Scientists	1.8	4.0
Biomedical Scientist Staff	6.6 + 1 fixed term 14 months	12.0
Associate Practitioners	5 + 2 fixed term 5 months	10.0
Medical Laboratory Assistants	5.5+ 1 fixed term 5 months	14.0

9. Number of BMS and Technical vacancies currently open (*expressed as number and grades*)

0.5 x Band 3

2 x fixed term Band 3 (for 5 months and 17 months respectively)

1 X fixed term Band 4 (17 months)