

Date: Friday, 08th September 2023  
Our Ref: MB/SH FOI 5917

Sid Watkins Building  
Lower Lane  
Fazakerley  
Liverpool L9 7BB  
Tel: 01515253611  
Fax: 01515295500  
Direct Line: 01515563038

**Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 5917**

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 07th September 2023.

Your request was as follows:

We are trying to gauge how many labs have to re-label blood tubes, and the size of the problem. If you have precise data that would be preferable, but if it is easier to give approximate data, that is fine also.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information for the period 2021-2022 or 2022-2023 whichever data is available easily:

1.  Name of your hospital or list of hospitals under your single NHS Trust.

[The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust.](#)

2.  How many beds does your hospital or each hospital in your group have?

[The WCFT have 159 beds.](#)

3.  What hospitals (names) does your laboratory serve?

[The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust primarily but as a specialist Neurobiochemistry and Neuroimmunology lab we also receive referred work from numerous other hospitals locally and nationally.](#)

4.  How many (~) blood tubes arrive in the lab (pathology specimen reception or SRA) for a 12 month periods?

[~15000 \(estimate based on the assumption that each patient request is associated with ~1.5 tubes on average\)](#)

5.  How many (~) blood tests does your pathology specimen reception handle during a 12 month period?

[~27000 \(estimate taken from turnaround time report\)](#)

6.  How many patients does this represent?

[~10000 \(estimate based on the typical number of patients samples received from per week\)](#)

7.  What % of the blood tubes that arrive in the SRA (specimen reception) need to be re-labelled with a bar coded label?

[100% of tubes get a barcoded label in the lab.](#)

8.  What % of tubes that arrive direct from primary care need to be re-labelled to pass through the analyzer?

Not applicable, we do not receive samples from primary care

9.  What % of tubes that arrive from secondary care requests need to be re-labelled to pass through the analyzer?

100% of tubes get a barcoded label in the lab.

NB the majority of our tests are manual and not on an analyzer.

10.  What is the split between blood tests that arrive from primary care and what proportion from hospital care?

Not applicable, we do not receive samples from primary care.

11.  For hospital patients what proportion of blood tests are from inpatients (X%) and what proportion are from outpatients?

On a typical day:

- Inpatients 19%
- Outpatients 25%
- Referred in from external hospitals 56%

12.  For primary care patients: What is the split between blood tests taken in primary care (%), hospital phlebotomy (%), CDC phlebotomy (%) or other (%)?

Not applicable, we do not receive samples from primary care.

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

### Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk) where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at [www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm)

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

**Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 5917 in any future communications.**

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted by:

Post: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHeshire, SK9 5AF.

Online: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

*Mike Burns*

**Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information**