

Ref. No: 2647
Date: 29/06/26
Subject: Monthly histology activity, turnaround times and service-improvement measures — financial years 2023/24 to 2025/26

REQUEST & RESPONSE

Monthly histology activity, turnaround times and service-improvement measures — financial years 2023/24 to 2025/26
For the attention of the Freedom of Information Officer — please forward to the Cellular Pathology / Histology Department

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request **monthly** cellular pathology (histology) activity, turnaround-time and service-improvement information for the three financial years 2023/24 to 2025/26. **This data is held within the laboratory information system (LIMS), so I should be grateful if this request could be directed to the histology / cellular pathology department.**

Monthly figures are requested only for the three most recent financial years, when these data are most likely to be held. Please provide all the data that you are able to; a partial response is welcome — complete the months you can. Where a service improvement was not yet in use, please enter 0 (or 'not in use'). Estimates are acceptable; please flag any estimate and an approximate margin (%) in the comments.

Completion notes and definitions

- All figures relate to **histopathology only**, including routine immunohistochemistry. Please exclude non-gynaecological cytology, molecular pathology and other disciplines; note in comments if they cannot be separated.
- **Each row is one calendar month** within the financial year (April–March); please report the figure for that month.

- **Total cases reported** = histology cases authorised that month (a **case = one request/specimen**). **Cases reported ≤10 calendar days** = of those, the number with receipt-to-authorisation of 10 calendar days or fewer (RCPath basis).
- **Total slides / blocks produced** = all slides (incl. levels, special stains, IHC) and all paraffin blocks embedded that month.
- **% cases dissected by BMS** = of cases cut-up that month, the % where dissection was performed by a biomedical scientist (vs medical staff).
- **% cases reported by BMS** = % of cases where the primary diagnostic report was issued by a reporting BMS (ASD/equivalent).
- **% blocks automatically embedded** = % of paraffin blocks embedded using an automated embedding platform.
- **% blocks automatically sectioned** = % of blocks cut by automated microtomy (vs manual sectioning).
- **% cases reported digitally** = % of cases where the primary diagnosis was made on whole-slide (digital) images rather than glass.
- **% cases reported with AI assistance** = % of cases where an AI tool was used in the diagnostic / reporting pathway.
- If a percentage is difficult, a count plus the denominator (in comments) is equally welcome; enter 0 where a measure was not yet in use.

Respondent details

ITEM	YOUR RESPONSE
Name of pathology network	Cheshire and Mersey
Name of laboratory completing your histology work	Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospital
Is your histology performed by another trust / network hub laboratory? (Yes/No — if Yes, which)	No
Level of pathology network maturity	Maturing

Q1. Monthly activity and turnaround times

MONTH	TOTAL CASES REPORTED	CASES REPORTED ≤10 CALENDAR DAYS	TOTAL SLIDES PRODUCED	TOTAL BLOCKS PRODUCED	COMMENTS
Financial year 2023/24					
Apr 2023	3755	654	24994	9337	
May 2023	4221	747	27062	10288	
Jun 2023	4269	905	27779	10510	
Jul 2023	4170	881	27846	10618	
Aug 2023	3979	909	28274	10101	
Sep 2023	4254	1017	27582	10259	
Oct 2023	4596	1172	30022	11287	
Nov 2023	4675	1117	30168	11235	
Dec 2023	3828	900	25945	9374	
Jan 2024	4508	1441	30611	10771	
Feb 2024	4437	1097	29285	10561	
Mar 2024	4504	1366	29060	11058	
Financial year 2024/25					
Apr 2024	4308	2170	27740	10412	
May 2024	4543	2147	28980	11612	
Jun 2024	4544	1524	29326	11258	
Jul 2024	4726	1363	32220	11713	
Aug 2024	4292	1448	26999	10371	

Sep 2024	4497	1882	28540	10714	
Oct 2024	4752	1852	30251	11831	
Nov 2024	4642	2185	29561	11336	
Dec 2024	3997	1792	27179	9809	
Jan 2025	4528	3271	31745	11125	
Feb 2025	4272	2545	30490	10689	
Mar 2025	4498	1644	30881	11108	
Financial year 2025/26					
Apr 2025	4630	1454	31170	11406	
May 2025	4464	1309	30327	10855	
Jun 2025	4557	2430	31315	11356	
Jul 2025	4669	3226	30075	11358	
Aug 2025	4193	2277	28936	10857	
Sep 2025	4651	2211	30971	11198	
Oct 2025	5157	2193	35467	12462	
Nov 2025	4522	1860	31908	11300	
Dec 2025	4016	1366	29841	9939	
Jan 2026	4275	2818	31505	10735	
Feb 2026	3981	2593	27799	10093	
Mar 2026	4589	2734	30041	10788	

Q2. Monthly service-improvement measures (%)

Percentage of work each month; enter 0 (or 'not in use') where the technology / role was not yet in use.

MONTH	% CASES DISSECTED BY BMS	% CASES REPORTED BY BMS	% BLOCKS AUTO- EMBEDDED	% BLOCKS AUTO- SECTIONED	% CASES REPORTED DIGITALLY	% CASES REPORTED WITH AI	COMMENTS
Financial year 2023/24							
Apr 2023	86.8%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	2.5%	0	
May 2023	82.5%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	2.4%	0	
Jun 2023	86.6%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	2.0%	0	
Jul 2023	90.5%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	2.2%	0	
Aug 2023	89.1%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	2.8%	0	
Sep 2023	91.2%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	2.9%	0	
Oct 2023	83.1%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	1.4%	0	
Nov 2023	88.5%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	1.7%	0	
Dec 2023	86.5%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	2.3%	0	
Jan 2024	84.9%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	3.4%	0	

Feb 2024	87.2%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	3.2%	0	
Mar 2024	81.6%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	1.8%	0	
Financial year 2024/25							
Apr 2024	91.5%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	1.7%	0	
May 2024	82.5%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	2.3%	0	
Jun 2024	85.9%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	1.8%	0	
Jul 2024	86.3%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	1.2%	0	
Aug 2024	89.7%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	2.3%	0	
Sep 2024	82.4%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	2.7%	0	
Oct 2024	83.3%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	1.3%	0	
Nov 2024	83.2%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	2.5%	0	
Dec 2024	86.1%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	0.6%	0	
Jan 2025	89.1%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	3.3%	0	

Feb 2025	86.3%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	6.2%	0	
Mar 2025	84.9%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	5.0%	0	
Financial year 2025/26							
Apr 2025	88.4%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	5.5%	0	
May 2025	86.1%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	5.8%	0	
Jun 2025	92.9%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	7.7%	0	
Jul 2025	87.9%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	9.3%	0	
Aug 2025	90.9%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	6.2%	0	
Sep 2025	85.8%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	10.0%	0	
Oct 2025	91.9%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	9.3%	0	
Nov 2025	86.8%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	8.3%	0	
Dec 2025	91.0%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	4.3%	0	
Jan 2026	82.4%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	6.0%	0	

Feb 2026	88.8%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	6.4%	0	
Mar 2026	83.5%	0	Unable to measure	Unable to measure	9.1%	0	