



**East London**  
NHS Foundation Trust  
**Information Governance**  
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29 August 2025.

**Our reference: FOI DA6223**

I am responding to your request for information received 27 August 2025. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Coordinator

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113  
Web: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

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**Chief Executive Officer:** Lorraine Sunduza  
**Chair:** Eileen Taylor

**Request:** I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information regarding pathology services at your Trust/Hospital. Specifically, I would like to request the following:

**Question 1: Pathology Backlog**

- **The current number of unreported or outstanding pathology cases (e.g., histopathology, cytopathology, or other pathology specialties) as of the latest available date.**
- **The average turnaround time (TAT) for urgent and routine pathology cases over the last 12 months.**
- **The highest recorded backlog volumes within the last 12 months.**

**Answer:** The Trust has reviewed question 1 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—*  
*(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and*  
*(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide pathology services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 2: Backlog Management**

- **Details of how the Trust is currently managing any pathology backlog (e.g., internal overtime, recruitment drives, insourcing teams, outsourcing, digital reporting solutions, etc.).**

**Answer:** The Trust has reviewed question 2 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

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**Question 3: External Spend**

**For the last three financial years (2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 YTD):**

- **Total spend on agency locum pathologists.**
- **Total spend on outsourcing pathology reporting to external providers or private companies.**
- **The names of any external companies engaged for pathology reporting/outsourcing.**

**Answer:** The Trust has reviewed question 3 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

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(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide pathology services or engage agencies for locum pathologists. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 4: Digital Pathology Infrastructure**

- **Does your Trust currently have a digital pathology reporting structure in place (enabling remote reporting of scanned slides)?**
- **If yes, which whole-slide scanners are in use (make and model)?**
- **Does the Trust's current setup allow for remote digital reporting by external pathologists?**
- **Which Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) is used by your pathology department?**
- **Are there any plans to expand or adopt digital pathology solutions in the next 12–24 months?**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 4 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:  
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East London NHS Foundation Trust is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide digital pathology services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 5: Future Plans**

- **Any documented strategies in place to reduce pathology backlogs, increase reporting capacity, or transition towards digital pathology adoption.**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 5 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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