



**East London**

**NHS Foundation Trust**

**Information Governance**

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28<sup>th</sup> July 2026

**Our reference: FOI DA6740**

We are responding to your request for information received 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team

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:** Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request the recorded information set out below regarding the Trust's histopathology services. Where any figure is not held in the exact form requested, I would be grateful for the nearest available data together with a note of the basis on which it is provided:

**Question 1:** What was your total histopathology department case volume for in each of the two most recent completed financial years (FY24/25 and FY25/26) and the % of each which was digital? Please provide the number of final cases (as opposed to slides, blocks or specimens).

**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 such does not provide histopathology services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 2:** Of that volume, how many cases were reported in-house versus outsourced to an external provider in each year, and which external provider(s) were used?

**Answer:** Not Applicable

**Question 3:** For outsourced histopathology work, please break down volume and spend according to whether the provider performed the full laboratory process as well as reporting (wet and report), or provided reporting only with the Trust performing all laboratory processing (report only).

**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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**Question 4:** For each provider used, please confirm the method of case transfer (glass slide delivery or digital transfer).

**Answer:** Not Applicable

**Question 5:** For each provider used, please confirm the method of report delivery (email/PDF, secure reporter access to local pathology system, separate provider portal, electronic automation into local pathology system).

**Answer:** Not Applicable



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**Question 6: What percentage of histopathology cases were reported within 7, 10 and 14 calendar days of receipt over the most recent 12-month period (measured against Royal College of Pathologists key performance indicators)?**

**Answer** The Trust has reviewed question 6 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

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**Question 7: For outsourced histopathology work, what proportion (by case volume) was sent to each provider as physical glass slides versus as digital whole-slide images?**

**Answer** The Trust has reviewed question 7 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 8: What was the total spend on outsourced histopathology reporting in each of the two most recent completed financial years, broken down by provider?**

**Answer** The Trust has reviewed question 8 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 histopathology services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 9: Does the Trust use any insourcing arrangement (a third-party providing reporting or laboratory capacity using the Trust's own facilities or systems)? If so, please state the provider(s), approximate volume, and spend.**



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Answer The Trust has reviewed question 9 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 use insourcing arrangements or provide histopathology services. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

**Question 10: What percentage of the Trust's in-house histopathology reporting is currently reported digitally? Please also state the digital pathology deployment status.**

Answer The Trust has reviewed question 10 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.*

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**Question 11: As at 20 July 2026, and expressed in whole-time equivalents (WTE), what is the histopathology reporting workforce (including funded establishment, filled posts, vacancies, and locum or agency cover) for consultant histopathologists?**

Answer The Trust has reviewed question 11 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.*

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**Question 12: For any current outsourced histopathology reporting contract(s): the start and end dates, extension or renewal options, contract value, and the procurement route or framework used.**

Answer Not Applicable.



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