



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-858

Royal Stoke University Hospital  
Data, Security and Protection  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Email [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 11th March 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding LIMS

On 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 we contacted you via email with the following:

To continue with your request we require clarification on the following:

A time frame in order to collate the information

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 you replied via email with:

*'Q8 So if for instance you do blood tests in your blood sciences labs, how many tests per year do you perform (how many you did in 2023 would be sufficient). I don't need to know the detail of what tests you do or how many of each but just a broad number of blood tests in the lab please. Sorry if I have misunderstood what you need clarifying. Please advise.'*

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

**Q1 My company [REDACTED] are a supplier to numerous NHS organisations for Pathology Laboratory analytical devices and equipment. Three years ago I emailed a similar request to the below, trying gain an understanding of the NHS Pathology Laboratory landscape (as at that time we were bringing to market our own, new Laboratory Information System – or 'LIS' / 'LIMS') that we felt would be extremely beneficial to NHS clients (both current and new).**

**Subsequently, I write today to try and get an updated picture of where Labs across the UK are in terms of their information systems and the service that they deliver. I have put together a short list of questions below that I would ask for you to consider by way of a freedom of information request. If you can provide any feedback with these that would be brilliant and would help me identify when and how best to serve your hospitals with information about the things we are doing in the Pathology Laboratory space.**

**Q1. What Hospitals within your Trust run their own Pathology Labs or Departments?**

A1 Relates to all Trusts served by North Midlands and Cheshire Pathology Services (NMCPS) namely:

Royal Stoke  
County Hospital  
Leighton Hospital  
Macclesfield Hospital

NMCPS was formed as part of the national pathology network plans. NMCPS Pathology laboratory services are hosted by UHNM with the hub lab being based at Royal Stoke and spoke labs being operated at County, Leighton and Macclesfield

**Q2 Who is the Laboratory Pathology IT Lead for these labs?**

A2 The post is currently vacant; we have recently recruited a new Pathology IT lead who is yet to commence in post..

**Q3 At these labs what LIS / LIMS Solution are used to manage the day-to-day service.**

A3 Clinisys; Winpath Enterprise

**Q4 When is the labs respective LIS / LIMS contract due for renewal?**

A4 30th November 2029

**Q5 Are the Trust / network planning to replace the LIS / LIMS at any point in any of your hospitals in the near future? Are there any plans to move to a Pathology Network wide LIS / LIMS for instance (and if so – can you state at this time which Solution)?**

A5 NMCPS pathology network was formed in December 2020. The network has procured a new LIMS; Clinisys Winpath Enterprise in 2019. The LIMS project has been running for the past 4 years and has now been implemented into all the network laboratories.

**Q6 Do your Labs work with or have ties to other organisations that mean they work as a part of another Pathology collaborative (and will this impact how your labs your work within the Regional Pathology Network that they have been assigned to)?**

A6 North 8 pathology network (NHS England): Includes both NMCPS and Shrewsbury and Telford (SaTH) and Robert Jones/ Agnus Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital Oswestry.

NMCPS are working with SaTH to implement the new Winpath Enterprise LIMS across the laboratories within Shropshire.

**Q7 What Middleware solutions do your Labs use if any?**

A7 See below:  
Siemens Centralink  
Roche Infinity  
Biomerieux MYLA  
Beckman Remisol

**Q8 How many tests per year do your Labs do?**

A8 In 2023-24 financial year (1.4.23 – 31.3.24) NMCPs conducted the following number of tests:

Biochemistry	17787601
Haematology	2231741
Transfusion	243806
Immunology	188097
Microbiology	607076
Virorology	421107
Histology	115884
NG Cytology	5953

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



University Hospitals  
of North Midlands  
NHS Trust

**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

