

Request Reference: FOI/062/24

Published: 11 February 2025

Information requested:

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please could you kindly complete the spreadsheet attached to provide information on the microbiology, virology and molecular tests carried out within the Pathology Laboratory at the Trust over the previous 2 calendar years (April 2023 - March 2025).

All questions relate to microbiology and virology molecular tests and traditional microbiology testing only, please do not include details for any other disciplines unless otherwise stated.

Please complete all questions where possible – if precise data is unavailable, please provide an estimate (stating that data is an estimate plus likely error margin expressed as a percentage).

If unable to complete all questions, please provide a partial response (just completing the data that you can).

Response:

We do not have a pathology laboratory and as such we give notice under FOISA section 17 that we do not hold the information requested.

Advice and Guidance

We provided you with a response (FOI/050/24) on 19 December 2024 to questions of a similar nature regarding the tests undertaken by our pathology laboratory. We advised in that response that we did not have a pathology laboratory.

Scottish public authorities are not obliged to comply with request that are either vexatious or repeated (FOISA Section 14).

Whilst the date ranges and tests vary in these requests, if we do not have a laboratory the only response we can provide is the 'information not held' response that we have provided in FOI/050/24 and this request.

Further requests for information relating to tests conducted by a laboratory you know we do not have are likely to be considered to have no serious purpose or value, and therefore vexatious.

We acknowledge that should we acquire a pathology laboratory in the future these requests would become relevant.

We would suggest that a more relevant question for the State Hospital would be "Do you have a pathology laboratory now?" with a frequency of no more than every six months. This would ensure you were kept informed about the status of any laboratory, whilst not unduly burdening the organisation.