

Direct Line: 01623 672232
Our Ref: 343
E-mail: sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net

King's Mill Hospital
Mansfield Road
Sutton in Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
NG17 4JL

20th December 2024

Tel: 01623 622515
Join today: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference: Pathology Services

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay.

Home, Community, Hospital.

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
1. What is the size of your trust's serviceable population?		Yes	Section 21	Under Section 21 of the Act, the Trust is not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested is available https://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk/media/d1enrg24/2023-24-sherwood-forest-hospitals-nhs-trust-annual-report-accounts.pdf page 36
2. How many patients has the trust tested for the following clinical biochemical markers in the last 12 months? a. C-reactive protein (CRP) b. High-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) c. Lipoprotein-a (Lp(a))	a. C-reactive protein (CRP) 213,593 CRP requested (Date range: 17/11/23 17/11/24) b. High-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) We do not perform/refer hs-CRP. c. Lipoprotein-a (Lp(a)) 17 requested (Date range: 17/11/23 17/11/24)			
3. Is there a limit to the frequency of the following tests per patient? a. C-reactive protein (CRP) b. High-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) c. Lipoprotein-a (Lp(a))	No limit to frequency of testing for CRP or Lp(a). We do not test hs-CRP.			

4. Please provide the name and post code of all the pathology providers in your trust	Pathology Services King's Mill Hospital Mansfield Road Sutton in Ashfield NG17 4JL			
5. Do you outsource any testing to commercial labs? If yes, please provide the names of each commercial provider	Cambridge Life Sciences and Synnovis LLP			
6. For each pathology provider in your trust please answer the following:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Does the laboratory currently offer testing for the following? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> C-reactive protein (CRP) YES, IN-HOUSE High-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hs-CRP) NO Lipoprotein-a (Lp(a)) YES – REFERRED What is the average turnaround time for an outpatient from blood sample collection to sharing of results for CRP and hs-CRP? QUOTED TAT IS 24 HOURS Is CRP offered as a standalone test or part of a panel? STANDALONE TEST Is hs-CRP offered as a standalone test or part of a panel? N/A 		Section 43	<p>Q15 - Section 43 - Commercial interests</p> <p>It is our opinion that the information sought in relation to costs is exempt from disclosure pursuant to section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). S43(2) relates to information that is exempt from disclosure that could have a detrimental effect on the commercial interests of “...any person.” The Trust considers that at this time the commercial interests of the Trust, third parties and overall the NHS could be detrimentally impacted upon. Please see the public interest test below.</p> <p>Public Interest Test</p> <p>We recognise that the disclosure of the information sought in relation to the costs involved would provide</p>

	<p>5. What machines are used to conduct CRP testing in your laboratory? ROCHE COBAS C702 CLINICAL CHEMISTRY ANALYSERS</p> <p>6. What machines are used to conduct hs-CRP testing in your laboratory? N/A</p> <p>7. What is the lowest limit of detection (in mg/L) that you report for CRP? 0.6 MG/L</p> <p>8. What is the lowest limit of detection (in mg/L) that you report for hs-CRP? N/A</p> <p>9. How many requests for measurement of CRP did your laboratory complete in the last 12 months? 213,000 tests performed (Date range: 17/11/23 17/11/24)</p> <p>10. How many requests for measurement of hs-CRP did your laboratory complete in the last 12 months? N/A</p> <p>11. What is the maximum number of CRP tests that your laboratory can conduct in one month? UNABLE TO ANSWER, TOO MANY FACTORS INVOLVED TO DETERMINE</p> <p>12. What is the maximum number of hs-CRP tests that laboratory can conduct in one month? N/A</p>			<p>transparency in the use of public funds by the Trust and the NHS in general. It would also assist the general populous with transparency in decision making by the Trust and their transactions with third parties.</p> <p>Conversely to the factors demonstrated above in favour of disclosure, it is felt that the Trust, third party suppliers and overall the NHS could be disadvantaged should the information sought in relation to costs being made available. Suppliers compete with one another in a competitive environment and to provide the value of the costs involved may allow rival companies to undercut the Trust current suppliers, lead to loss of confidence by suppliers and customers and could cause significant harm and disadvantage to the Trust and suppliers.</p> <p>The disclosure could also adversely impact on any on-going or future procurement processes for the reasons outlined above. Any disclosure by the Trust could also in future discourage the provision of commercially sensitive information necessary to respond properly to the Trusts Invitation To Tender, and would be likely to affect and undermine the Trusts bargaining position in any future procurement</p>
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	<p>13. What is the cost of running a single CRP test in your laboratory? Please provide a breakdown of cost of running the test and all-in cost considering operations, FTEs etc. Calculated cost £2.64, including staff, consumables, and equipment related costs, but not PFI costs (we do not have access to these)</p> <p>14. What is the cost of running a single hs-CRP test in your laboratory? Please provide a breakdown of cost of running the test and all-in cost considering operations, FTEs etc. N/A</p> <p>15. How much are you reimbursed for a single CRP test in your laboratory? Section 43</p> <p>16. How much are you reimbursed for a single hs-CRP test in your laboratory? N/A</p>		<p>process or negotiations. Ultimately civil action could be taken against the Trust should information be disclosed that adversely affects the commercial interests of current and/or future suppliers.</p> <p>As a result, it is in the Trust's opinion that this sufficiently demonstrates the prejudice which could be caused through disclosure.</p> <p>Balance Test</p> <p>It is important to bear in mind that any disclosure under the FOI Act is a disclosure to the public at large and not just to the applicant. It is recognised that there is a general public interest in the Trust being open and transparent. However, it is not believed that this public interest is served in disclosure for damage that would be caused as outlined above.</p> <p>Therefore, – the Trust considers that releasing this information would not be in the public interest, as the public interest does not outweigh the prejudice as set out above. Further guidance can be accessed from the Information Commissioner's Office https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guidance-index/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-</p>
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				information-regulations/section-43-commercial-interests/
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I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.

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