

Direct Line: 01623 672232
Our Ref: 53453
E-mail: sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net

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

RE: Freedom of Information Request

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

31st January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 14th October 2023, 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 apology for the delay in responding to your request.

In your request you asked:

1. **Please table the hospitals or other acute sites currently submitting blood cultures and for each site-**
 - i) **Are blood cultures incubated and/or processed on site or sent to a microbiology laboratory off site?**
 - ii) **If incubated or processed off site, what is the distance in miles between the site and the offsite laboratory?**
 - iii) **How many blood culture sets were submitted from each site in 2022/23?**
 - iv) **Number of bed days for all patients per site**

	Name of acute site	Blood incubated on- site? Y/N	Blood Processed on site? Y/N	Distance to off- site lab in miles	No. cultures submitted 2022/2023 Adults and paed	Number of bed days 2022/23
1.	Kings Mill	Yes	Yes	N/A	12236	
2.	Newark	No	No	23.8	127	
3.	Mansfield Community	No	No	1.3	6	
4.	Barlborough Treatment Centre	No	No	12.2	1	

Comments:

Home, Community, Hospital.

Patient Experience Team
01623 672222
sfh-tr.pet@nhs.net



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Chair Claire Ward
Chief Executive Paul Robinson

2. Does the Trust follow the UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations (SMI S12) in relation to Blood Cultures?

Yes

3. Do you undertake formal compliance audits of the recommended pre-analytical standard for blood cultures of a four hour TAT from collection to incubation?

Yes

4. What percentage of blood culture sets achieved this standard in the year 2022/23 at each site.

If full compliance with the pre analytical standard cannot be met, are clinicians made aware of the risk via a statement in the report on specimens which encountered delay?

	Name of site	% achieving 4-hr TAT	Delayed incubation reported Y/N
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Comments: Information not held in a readily accessible format.

5. What is the population served by the Trust?

Section 21 exempts information that is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

The information you require is available here: <http://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk/about-us/>

6. What was the total expenditure on laboratory services (directorate of pathology) as a percentage of total Trust expenditure in the year 2022/23?

0.041

7. Please append a copy of your blood culture protocol or policy or other document which informs clinical staff when they should take a blood culture.

Section 21 exempts information that is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

The information you require is available here: <https://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk/media/15964/blood-cultures-from-patients-with-suspected-or-confirmed-infections-policy.pdf>

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 sincerely

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.