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23rd September 2026

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference: Histology
slides 2022 - 2025

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.

Home, Community, Hospital.

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details												
1. For each of the last 3 completed financial years, how many histology blocks and how many histology slides were archived/retained by the Trust? Please state whether the figures given are exact or estimated, and which years are covered if not 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25.	See table, sourced from LIMS: <table> <tr> <th>FY</th><th>blocks</th><th>slides</th></tr> <tr> <td>22/23</td><td>71690</td><td>129551</td></tr> <tr> <td>23/24</td><td>75760</td><td>137241</td></tr> <tr> <td>24/25</td><td>83146</td><td>144493</td></tr> </table>	FY	blocks	slides	22/23	71690	129551	23/24	75760	137241	24/25	83146	144493			
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22/23	71690	129551														
23/24	75760	137241														
24/25	83146	144493														
2. Does the Trust use any off-site storage (third-party or separate premises) for archived histology blocks or slides, in addition to or instead of on-site storage? Please answer yes or no.	Yes															
3. As at the most recent date this is known, how many histology blocks and how many histology slides are currently held on-site?	Approx., as of March 2026 (sourced from LIMS): 465702 blocks, 808348 slides.															
4. What method or equipment is currently used to store archived histology blocks and slides (e.g. named commercial storage/cabinet system, in-house shelving, other)? If a named commercial product or system is used, please state the product/supplier name.	On-site: In-house shelving. Off-site: CellNass Archival.															
5. Is any barcode, RFID, or electronic tracking system used to record the location of archived	No															

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Home, Community, Hospital.

blocks or slides? If so, please state the name of the system/software.				
6. If the Trust holds a contract or licence for a named storage or tracking system as described in questions 4 to 5, what is the current annual contract or licence cost? If this figure is withheld as commercially sensitive, please confirm this and provide a cost banding if one is available (e.g. under £5,000 / £5,000 to £20,000 / over £20,000).	CellNass Archival current annual contract: £5,000 – £20,000.			
7. How many whole time equivalent (WTE) staff are employed within the histology archive/storage function as at 31 August 2026, excluding pathologists engaged in reporting?	14.4 WTE staff that have histology archive function as a part of their job description. 0 WTE staff dedicated solely to histology archive function.			

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



We are proud to be
a smoke-free site

Trust Chair Rukshana Kapasi OBE
Chief Executive Jon Melbourne

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.