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West Sussex
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www.secamb.nhs.uk

24th July 2026
Internal Reference: 260750
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **23/07/2026**.
We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
Please ensure you quote the Internal Reference number above in any future correspondence.

Your Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request the recorded information set out below regarding the Trust's histopathology services. Where any figure is not held in the exact form requested, I would be grateful for the nearest available data together with a note of the basis on which it is provided:

1. What was your total histopathology department case volume for in each of the two most recent completed financial years (FY24/25 and FY25/26) and the % of each which was digital? Please provide the number of final cases (as opposed to slides, blocks or specimens).
2. Of that volume, how many cases were reported in-house versus outsourced to an external provider in each year, and which external provider(s) were used?
3. For outsourced histopathology work, please break down volume and spend according to whether the provider performed the full laboratory process as well



as reporting (wet and report), or provided reporting only with the Trust performing all laboratory processing (report only).

4. For each provider used, please confirm the method of case transfer (glass slide delivery or digital transfer).
5. For each provider used, please confirm the method of report delivery (email/PDF, secure reporter access to local pathology system, separate provider portal, electronic automation into local pathology system).
6. What percentage of histopathology cases were reported within 7, 10 and 14 calendar days of receipt over the most recent 12-month period (measured against Royal College of Pathologists key performance indicators)?
7. For outsourced histopathology work, what proportion (by case volume) was sent to each provider as physical glass slides versus as digital whole-slide images?
8. What was the total spend on outsourced histopathology reporting in each of the two most recent completed financial years, broken down by provider?
9. Does the Trust use any insourcing arrangement (a third-party providing reporting or laboratory capacity using the Trust's own facilities or systems)? If so, please state the provider(s), approximate volume, and spend.
10. What percentage of the Trust's in-house histopathology reporting is currently reported digitally? Please also state the digital pathology deployment status.
11. As at 20 July 2026, and expressed in whole-time equivalents (WTE), what is the histopathology reporting workforce (including funded establishment, filled posts, vacancies, and locum or agency cover) for consultant histopathologists?





12. For any current outsourced histopathology reporting contract(s): the start and end dates, extension or renewal options, contract value, and the procurement route or framework used.

Formal Response

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust is an ambulance service provider and does not provide or operate histopathology services. Accordingly, the information requested is not applicable to the Trust.

Next steps

Some information held by the Trust is routinely published on our [website](#) and may be of assistance.

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review.

Requests for an internal review should be submitted within **40 working days** of the date of this response and should be sent to:

Richard Banks, Head of Corporate Governance at FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

The internal review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in handling your original request, ordinarily the Trust's Data Protection Officer. We aim to complete internal reviews within **20 working days** of receipt.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of the internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO generally expects complaints to be raised promptly following the completion of an internal review.

The easiest way to raise a complaint is via the ICO's website:
www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Alternatively, you may write to:
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,



Corporate Governance Team

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

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Saving Lives,
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Chair: Colin Dennis, Interim CEO: Jen Allan