



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 12760

7 December 2018

Dear ,

**ATISN 12760 – Histopathology or Cellular pathology laboratories and networks**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 11 November.

You asked for information in relation to histopathology or cellular pathology laboratories and networks, specifically:

1. The number of Histopathology or Cellular Pathology laboratories in Wales.
2. A list of all the Histopathology or Cellular Pathology laboratories in Wales, providing detail on the items listed below:
  - a. For each laboratory state its geographic location/name and address.
  - b. For each laboratory state which NHS acute trust/ hospital it is associated with and/or provides services for.
  - c. For each laboratory state if it is run as part of the NHS or is run by a private enterprise.
  - d. For each laboratory provide contact details for the laboratory manager and/or freedom of information officer.
  - e. Provide detail on the size of each laboratory, in the form of number of specimen requests processed per annum.
3. Detail on Histopathology or Cellular pathology networks within Wales stating the following:
  - a. Number of pathology networks.
  - b. Size and geographic location of each network (number of pathology laboratories in network and name/location of each laboratory).
  - c. Details on proposed/approved networks.
4. Detail on any Histopathology or Cellular pathology networks that cross borders within the UK (i.e. crossing the Welsh/English border).



The Welsh Government holds some of the information of this description and it is enclosed at Annex A of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

## Annex A

### 1. The number of Histopathology or Cellular Pathology laboratories in Wales.

There is no single pathology service across Wales and, although some services are provided nationally, most sit under the responsibility of the six University Health Boards.

### 2. A list of all the Histopathology or Cellular Pathology laboratories in Wales, providing detail on the items listed below:

#### a. For each laboratory state its geographic location/name and address.

There are 7 Pathology laboratories located across Wales which carry out Cellular Pathology:

- **Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB:** Morriston Hospital, Singleton Hospital,
- **Aneurin Bevan UHB:** Royal Gwent Hospital,
- **Betsi Cadwaladr UHB:** Ysbyty Glan Clwyd,
- **Cardiff and Vale UHB:** University Hospital of Wales,
- **Cwm Taf UHB:** Royal Glamorgan Hospital,
- **Hywel Dda UHB:** Glangwili General Hospital.

#### b. For each laboratory state which NHS acute trust/ hospital it is associated with and/or provides services for.

See information under 2a.

#### c. For each laboratory state if it is run as part of the NHS or is run by a private enterprise.

Information not held. For this information you may wish to contact the organisations listed above direct.

#### d. For each laboratory provide contact details for the laboratory manager and/or freedom of information officer.

Information not held. For this information you may wish to contact the organisations direct, alternatively some of the information may be available on their websites:

- **Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB:**  
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/863/page/40874/>
- **Aneurin Bevan UHB:**  
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/866/page/40569>
- **Betsi Cadwaladr UHB:**  
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/861/page/63654>
- **Cardiff and Vale UHB:**  
<http://www.cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/cellular-pathology>
- **Cwm Taf UHB:**  
<http://cwmtaf.wales/services/cellular-pathology-service/>
- **Hywel Dda UHB:**  
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/page/40318>

**e. Provide detail on the size of each laboratory, in the form of number of specimen requests processed per annum.**

### Pathology Tests

Discipline	Activity	Year	ABM UHB	AB UHB	BC UHB	CAV UHB	CT UHB	HD UHB	PHW	Total	Source
Cellular Pathology	Auth Test Sets	2017/18	39,713	17,250	46,665	67	1,654	25,976		130,325	TrackCare
Cellular Pathology	Episodes	2017		30,567		40,999	22,095	227		93,888	Telepath

**3. Detail on Histopathology or Cellular pathology networks within Wales stating the following:**

**a. Number of pathology networks.**

Pathology services are run by each Health Board; however Powys commission's laboratory services from neighbouring Health boards. For this information you may wish to contact the organisations direct.

**b. Size and geographic location of each network (number of pathology laboratories in network and name/location of each laboratory).**

See information under 3a.

**c. Details on proposed/approved networks.**

I have interpreted this to mean details on the number and the size and geographic location of any proposed/ approved network.

A National Pathology Network is being formed. The network will bring together health boards and trusts, as it is intended to ensure national best practice approaches are adopted in Wales (e.g. workforce redesign equipment procurement, informatics) or pathology services.

**4. Detail on any Histopathology or Cellular pathology networks that cross borders within the UK (i.e. crossing the Welsh/English border).**

The Welsh Government does not hold any information on specific histology / pathology networks that cross borders within the UK.

The NHS Cross Border Network is a group comprised of border area Local Health Boards and Clinical Commissioning Groups at which NHS England and Welsh Government are observers. This group discusses a range of cross border issues, recently publishing a statement of values and principles to make it easier for people living on the English Welsh

border to understand how they can use health services. Please see link for further information:

<https://gov.wales/topics/health/nhswales/about/border/?lang=en>

The Welsh Government does not hold any record of histology / pathology being discussed at this network.