



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9

Buckingham Row

Brick Kiln Lane

Wigan

WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2023/9303

Date Received: 16th October 2023

Response Due: 13th November 2023

Date: 6th November 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

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?

Please see redirection below.

ii) If incubated or processed off site, what is the distance in miles between the site and the offsite laboratory?

Please see redirection below.

iii) How many blood culture sets were submitted from each site in 2022/23?

Please see redirection below.

iv) Number of bed days for all patients per site

Please see redirection below.

	Name of acute site	Blood incubated	Blood Processed	Distance to off- site lab	No. cultures submitted	Number of bed days
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		on- site? Y/N	on site? Y/N	in miles	2022/2023 Adults and paed	2022/23
1.						

Comments:

2. Does the Trust follow the UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations (SMI S12) in relation to Blood Cultures? YES/NO

Please see redirection below.

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/NO

Please see redirection below.

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.			

Please see redirection below.

Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust have joined forces to create a joint pathology service called Pathology at Wigan and Salford. This information should be held by Salford Royal NHS FT.

Please submit a request to them by emailing FOIrequest@srft.nhs.uk

Comments:

5. What is the population served by the Trust?

Wigan population is 329 800.

Refusal notice; the information that you have requested relating this subject is exempt under Section 22 of the FOIA as it is information intended for future publication. Section 22 provides that:

1. Information is exempt if –

a) The information is held by a public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not).

b) It is reasonable in all circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph a.

[Wigan Population Statistics - Total, Demographics, Census Data \(visitnorthwest.com\)](http://visitnorthwest.com)

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


2.5%

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.

Please see the attached.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Amanda Cheesman
Deputy Chief Nurse

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

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

Helpline number: 0303 123 111