

Ref. No: 1527  
Date: 05/02/25  
Subject: Blood Test Study

## REQUEST

***The purpose of this FOI request is to discover the size of a national problem. At present approximately 80% of tubes that arrive in pathology have to be manually re-labelled in order for the blood tubes to be read by the analyser. This causes expense to hospitals, delays blood results and can lead to errors. Your cooperation to help me collect these data will be invaluable and I thank you for your time. You will probably need to address these questions to the Pathology Specimens Reception Manager.***

**I would like to request the following information for the period 2021-2022 or 2022-2023, whichever is more readily available.**

- 1. Names of hospitals under your NHS Trust**
- 2. Does your hospital perform blood tests or are they outsourced to an external laboratory?**
  - a. Hospital based tests**
  - b. External laboratory (please name)**
- 3. How many blood tubes are received in pathology reception each year?**

**Many labs know the actual number and if so please state.**

**e.g. In 2023, Our lab received 3.4 million tubes (*please amend with actual number if known*)**

**If not known, please estimate the number.**

- a. Less than 500,000
- b. 500,000 – 1,000,000
- c. 1,000,000 – 2,500,000
- d. 2,500,000 – 5,000,000
- e. >5,000,000

**4. If you do not know the answer to (3). How many patients have blood tests in your laboratory each year.**

**Many labs know the actual number and if so please state.**

**e.g. In 2023, Our lab received blood test requests for 1.2 million patients (*please amend with actual number if known*)**

**If not known, please estimate the number.**

- a. Less than 500,000
- b. 500,000 – 1,000,000
- c. 1,000,000 – 2,500,000
- d. 2,500,000 – 5,000,000
- e. >5,000,000

**5. Roughly what % of blood tests arrive from Primary Care and Secondary care respectively?**

**Primary Care X%**

**Secondary Care X%**

**6. Roughly what % of all total blood tests arriving to your reception need re-labelling so that the barcodes can be read by the analyser?**

**7. Roughly what % of blood tubes that arrive from Primary or Secondary Care need to be re-labelled so that the barcodes can be read by the analyser.**

**Primary Care: X% need to be re-labelled before analysis**

**Secondary Care: X% need to be re-labelled before analysis**

## RESPONSE

1. Whiston Hospital, St Helens Hospital, Southport Hospital, Ormskirk Hospital
2. Yes, our organisation performs blood tests.
3. Please see response to question 4 below
4. Number of patients having blood tests for the period 01/04/22 – 31/03/23 = 340,332. This data is with all duplicates removed so for example patients who have had a blood test every month have only been counted once.
5. Primary Care 65%, Secondary Care 35%
6. 46%
7. Primary Care 60% Secondary Care 12%