

FOI REQUEST NUMBER: 5244

1. Who is the policy or clinical lead for blood culture best practice at your trust? Please provide a name, job title, postal address, email address and phone number.

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2. Does your Trust follow the Public Health England SMI guidelines for blood cultures? Yes
3. How many blood culture sets are taken for each suspected case of (a) sepsis and (b) other bacterial infection, and where there is more than one blood culture set taken are these taken from different sites - please provide an answer for both (a) and (b).

We do not hold this information in a retrievable form. This is because sometimes the clinical diagnosis of sepsis is delayed or inaccurate. The blood culture request forms often refer to the potential site of infection (e.g. UTI) or simply state "unwell". However, we can tell you that there were 1904 patients coded with sepsis in the last financial year.

4. How many individual blood cultures were taken at your trust in the following years: (a) 2012/13 (b) 2013/14 (c) 2014/15 (d) 2015/16 (e) 2016/17?

The table below shows the number of blood cultures taken. Please note this includes patients with duplicate samples, for example, cultures taken from different sites. The number of such patients is shown in the final row.

5. How many individual blood cultures were identified as being contaminated in the following years: (a) 2012/13 (b) 2013/14 (c) 2014/15 (d) 2015/16 (e) 2016/17?

Please see below

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Total Workload (question 4)	22639	24514	26849	28612	29618
Contaminants (question 5)	1030	961	228	721	1266
Patients with duplicate samples on same day	293	341	306	329	423