

File reference	W17FOI275
Key words	Blood culture best practice
Date of release	27/06/2017
Attachments	No

Freedom of Information Act Disclosure log - Reply Extract

You asked

- 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.**

Dr Robert Tilley is our clinical lead for best practice in blood cultures.

Consultant Microbiologist

Department of Microbiology

Derriford Hospital

Plymouth

PL6 8DH

01752 430010

Robert.tilley@nhs.net

Web link: [-https://www.plymouthhospitals.nhs.uk/tilley-r](https://www.plymouthhospitals.nhs.uk/tilley-r)

- 2. Does your Trust follow the Public Health England SMI guidelines for blood cultures?**

No

Most blood cultures are incubated within 4hrs since moving blood culture machines to blood sciences lab for 24hr loading, but some exceptions expected (median 1hr 31m, mean 3hrs 5m in Oct 2016).

Achieving this guideline would require continuity of appropriate staffing levels throughout 24/7 and operating a full shift with additional resource.

Whilst our service vision incorporates changes to the way this service is delivered, particularly at night, this has not been realised.

- 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).**

- (a) Two recommended for sepsis
- (b) Three recommend for endocarditis.

Yes from different sites.

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?**

Answers to 4 & 5 included in the table

Blood Culture requests
by year plus
contaminants

	Total Number of Requests	No. contaminated
2012/13	15,434	369
2013/14	16,062	349
2014/15	18,161	335
2015/16	20,166	455
2016/17	21,027	407

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?**

As above