

Leeds Genetics Laboratory  
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Leeds Teaching Hospitals  
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Enquiries: 0113 206 5419  
Website: [www.leedsth.nhs.uk/genetics/](http://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/genetics/)

15th April 2019

**Re: Delays to somatic cancer genetic testing**

Dear Leeds Genetics Laboratory User,

We are writing to advise that for a combination of reasons centred around significant national reconfiguration of genetic services, and resulting in challenges with staffing levels, many of our current services are not being reported to the turnaround time guidelines that you may normally expect. In addition, some national turnaround targets have been revised.

We are managing a recovery plan to rectify this and improve performance, however it will take several weeks before a significant improvement is apparent.

Please be assured that we will prioritise the most urgent clinical work. You may use the table below as a guide to current expectations. It would be helpful if you could advise patients realistically about likely time to receive results and contact us to ask about ongoing work only where an outstanding result is most urgent.

Service	Turnaround target (from April 2019)	Current turnaround performance (90% of reports issued within timeframe)	Comment
Urgent haemato-oncology FISH/RT-PCR	3 calendar days	5 calendar days	Urgent
Urgent Haemato-oncology karyotyping	14 calendar days	22 calendar days	Urgent
Mutation specific molecular pathology tests	14 calendar days	15 calendar days	Urgent
Somatic cancer karyotype	21 calendar days	50 calendar days	
Somatic cancer gene panels	14 calendar days*	14 calendar days	Urgent

\*Internal target to reflect clinical urgency (National target of 21 days)

Please also note that the targets in the above table are new national targets and may differ from targets used previously. If any of the above targets are not appropriate to clinical need or you have other comments or feedback then please do not hesitate to e-mail us using the addresses provided below.

Many thanks for your cooperation. We also provide information on turnaround performance at our website: <http://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/a-z-of-services/the-leeds-genetics-laboratory/turnaround-times/>

This is a general letter to users. We may issue more targeted communication on specific services as the situation changes.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Cockburn', written in a cursive style.

Dr David Cockburn

Scientific Service Lead for Genetic Laboratory Services (d.cockburn@nhs.net)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Charlton', written in a cursive style.

Dr Ruth Charlton (FRCPath)

Clinical Service Lead for Genetic Laboratory Services (ruth.charlton1@nhs.net)