

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/078059-2025>

Planning

## Microbiology Services

The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-078059

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05eafc

Published 28 November 2025, 12:28pm

## Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

add link to portal

## Scope

## Reference

C404289

## Description

The Royal Marsden is currently exploring alternative operating models for its microbiology services and is undertaking a market engagement exercise to gather insights from providers. The exercise is designed to be a fact-finding and there is no formal evaluation. Providers are encouraged to propose individual solutions on their approach to service delivery and guidance on how to structure responses is listed in the attached . The objective of the market engagement exercise is to inform decision making on whether to move forward with a formal tender, but this is not a guarantee at this stage. With details of contract start dates provided only as estimates in the event there is a decision to progress to tender.

## Service Overview

Effective microbiology services are essential for the timely diagnosis of infections. For the oncology patient population microbiology screening, advice and guidance on treatment options and oversight of anti-microbial stewardship are also vital in ensuring individual treatments are optimised. Environmental testing provision is also in place to support cellular therapy, radiopharmacy and aseptic services. At the Royal Marsden Hospital the microbiology service consists of two discrete but collaborative functions. A UKAS accredited microbiology laboratory and a clinical microbiology service.

The microbiology laboratory is based at our Sutton site, providing microbiology testing for our Chelsea, Sutton and Cavendish Square sites. The laboratory processes approximately 187, 000 samples per year. With approximately 65% of these tests requiring a turn-around time of 24-48 hours for a positive result.