



National Institute for Health Research

NIHR NATIONAL BIOSAMPLE CENTRE

Introduction

The vision of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research.

This document sets out how the NIHR National Biosample Centre is contributing to this vision. Information about other elements of the NIHR clinical research infrastructure can be found in companion documents.

Overview

As clinical, disease and population-based studies increase in complexity and ambition, the challenges associated with establishing, running and maintaining the associated resources of biological samples takes up significant amounts of time and resources from leading researchers, their institutions and funder organisations.

The NIHR National Biosample Centre was launched in January 2015 to provide high throughput and high quality biosample processing, storage and retrieval services to support National Institute for Health Research-supported research, and research funded by DH partners, such as publicly funded research funders (e.g. MRC), charities (e.g. Wellcome, CR-UK), as well as industry.

The NIHR National Biosample Centre repository takes a whole system, industrialised approach, applying engineering disciplines, to bring benefits for research through identifying efficiencies (easing access, improving start up times, cost savings), managing risk, ensuring quality standards and protecting valuable samples and the information attached to them.

The Centre has the capacity to store up to 20 million samples and is a significant national health research resource.

Funding and Operations

The NIHR National Biosample Centre was funded with a £24million capital grant from the Department of Health to the University of Oxford who worked in partnership with UK Biobank and UK Biocentre (UK Biobank's wholly owned subsidiary), to design and deliver the Centre. The Centre is operated by specialist staff from UK Biocentre, reporting to the University of Oxford.

The NIHR National Biosample Centre charges on a fee-for-service basis.

Further Information

For further information, contact the NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure at nocri@nhr.ac.uk.

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