



5 February 2026

Pathology Portal Project Board
A meeting of the Pathology Portal Board was held on
Wednesday 4 February 2026 at 2pm via Teams

Professor Sarah Coupland
Registrar

Confirmed Minutes

Present

Professor Jo Martin	Pathology Portal Project Lead (Chair)
Joanne Brinklow	Director of Learning, RCPATH
Professor Marta Cohen	Vice President for Learning, RCPATH
Sandra Dewar	Assessment Manager, RCPATH
Samantha Jayaram	Press and Communications Manager, RCPATH
Luke Thrower	Pathology Portal Officer, RCPATH (Minutes)
Dr Esther Youd	Clinical Director of Digital Pathology Education, RCPATH

Apologies for absence

Vanessa Bassnett	Marketing and Communications Engagement Lead, NHS England, TEL
Dr Matthew Clarke	NIHR Clinical Lecturer, NHS England
Professor Nicki Cohen	Clinical Director of Examinations, RCPATH
Dr Owen Driskell	NSHCS Representative, NHS England
Rebecca Goodwin	Learning Platform Technician, RCPATH
Rachel Gowland	Stakeholder Manager, NHS England, TEL
Leigh Harrison	Program Manager, NHS England, TEL
Professor Shelley Heard	Educational Advisor
Dr Adil Jaulim	Clinical Fellow/Evaluation Officer
Professor Ronan McMullan	Clinical Director of Training and Assessment, RCPATH
Olamide Olayinka	Learning Platform Technician, RCPATH
Debra Padgett	President, IBMS
Karen Partington	Royal College of Radiologists representative
Sarah Pitt	President Elect, IBMS
Dr Neil Ralph	Head of Technology Enhanced Learning, NHS England
Dr Bethany Williams	Digital Pathology Representative, NHS England
Rebecca Williams-Lock	Stakeholder Manager, NHS England, TEL
Benjamin Witton	Product Manager Platforms, NHS England, TEL



1. Welcome and introductions

Professor Martin welcomed everyone to the Project Board meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 4 September 2025

The minutes from the Project Board meeting held on 4 September 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 4 September 2025

3.1 Luke Thrower to create messaging to go out requesting nominations for outstanding trainees.

Luke has sent a draft email to Professor Martin, Dr Youd and Sandra Dewar to feedback on. Dr Youd and Sandra have replied with their thoughts. Professor Martin said she will follow up.

3.2 Professor Cohen to initiate further discussions regarding examination materials.

Professor Cohen has spoken to Dr Evans and something is being prepared. Professor Cohen will follow up and put Dr Evans in touch with Luke. Professor Cohen then emailed Dr Evans to make contact during the meeting.

3.3 Luke Thrower to follow up on production of spotlight posts.

Luke confirmed the years spotlight posts have been planned and that the specialty editors are being contacted, this is giving variation to the content and making sure different areas are covered.

3.4 Samantha Jayaram and Luke Thrower to further discuss stakeholder engagement plans.

Luke and Samantha met on the morning of the Pathology Portal board to discuss and Samantha will provide an update in the communications section of the meeting.



4. Progress Report

The progress report is as written. Luke said that the Pathology Portal launches had reached 450,000 and by the next Pathology Portal board meeting, should have reached half a million. The resources continue to grow with contributors reaching out to run teaching sessions on the Pathology Portal which in turn is bringing in lots of new users. The North West external quality assessment (EQA) has now come to an end with their circulations but were very grateful for all the support they were provided by the Pathology Portal as an alternative to Leeds hosting. They will be back in touch in the future if they decide to restart the EQA, but from their feedback, they have recommended the Pathology Portal to other EQA providers who have since used the Pathology Portals services.

Dr Youd updated that lots of different content has been uploaded across specialties, a large histopathology collection has uploaded and is ready to be publicised and promoted. Dr Youd thanked Luke, Olamide Olayinka and Rebecca Goodwin for their work on this project. Another collection is also being uploaded currently, so there are now several large slide collections present on the Pathology Portal.

Professor Martin said that at some stage it will reach a point where it will be required to post only interesting content rather than lots of the same, as well as some competency tests where there are lots of similar content. This will involve going back to review what's present on the Pathology Portal. Professor Martin asked if Professor Flanagan had got back in touch with Luke, Luke said he had reached out to Professor Flanagan and her team but had not received responses. Professor Martin said she would also chase.

Action: Professor Martin to speak to Professor Flanagan

Professor Martin is revising the cost benefit analysis that was previously run and presented to the Pathology Portal board in December. The previous analysis was based on data up to June 2025 where the training provided had been worth £5.7 million. As of 26 January 2026, the value of training provided by just the cases on the



Pathology Portal was £7.4 million. Professor Martin will add in the expenditure to get the net benefit, but the growth is clear over the 6 month period.

Professor Martin also continues to speak with NHSE to acquire sufficient resources to maintain the quality and quantity of the work being done. Daniel Ross is waiting for funding to be received regarding placental pathology and then work will commence in developing that particular part of the portfolio, Professor Martin asked if the College had approved the placental pathology reporting.

Jo Brinklow updated that the funding had been chased and that Dr Srinivas Annavarapu is working on this, who is keen to get buy in from the paediatric pathology community. Jo Brinklow and Professor Cohen are chasing Dr Srinivas Annavarapu for elements which are required for it to go through the formal approvals process and will be shared with the paediatric pathology SAC by e-mail for approval. Jo Brinklow is hopeful that approval will be achieved by College Council at the end of February 2026.

Professor Martin has met with the NHSE workforce team where they have proposed sponsoring a series of lectures in different specialties, this would be for approximately £100,000 in five different specialties including paediatric and perinatal, histopathology, transfusion, infection and haematology. This would include costs for the College in terms of putting the content together, editing and making them live. The Pathology Portal board were in agreement. These lectures would be for existing trainees and so would not be duplicating work being done for the National Pathology Week content. Jo Brinklow suggested that for histopathology, the lectures could cover some particular pinch points like cervical content, but that a curriculum review is taking place and maybe this content can support that. Professor Martin agreed and said to share any particular areas of interest and Professor Martin and Dr Youd can look at commissioning those particular pieces of work. Jo Brinklow said she will speak to Professor McMullan, as well as Annette Nicole who is haematology SOC Chair at the JRCPTB. Professor Martin asked if Jo Brinklow could share Annette's email.

Action: Jo Brinklow to send Professor Martin the email address for Annette Nicole



Professor Martin has recruited a medical editor and a clinical nurse specialist editor for the endoscopy section and has been approached to speak to the endoscopy board. The endoscopy section of the Pathology Portal has great videos currently which are AI ready. Jo Brinklow queried what this meant and Professor Martin explained that the endoscopy cameras have been trained to produce a green square on areas of focus, reducing number of misses, which these videos show.

Jo Brinklow asked if there were any updates regarding the NHSE and Department of Health merger, as currently it looks like between February and April 2026. They will be publishing the operational model design, the functions, roles and responsibilities etc. with a more detailed organisational design and consult with staff in November. In January 2027 they will start to fill new posts. This timetable seems squeezed, particularly towards the end of the year, but it is not clear yet where the Pathology Portal will sit within this model. Professor Martin said that a breakdown of what the Pathology Portal has achieved will be sent to the interim Head of Workforce, Jo Lenaghan.

Jo Brinklow also said she had been asked to complete a survey for the academy regarding the value that the College brings to the British economy. Professor Martin said the health economic analysis of the Pathology Portal can be provided and just needs the updated budget data from Daniel Ross. Jo Brinklow said she would chase.

Action: Jo Brinklow to chase Daniel Ross for budget sheet

5. Communications update and stakeholder engagement

Samantha updated that the Pathology Portal's newsletter entry would start aligning with the spotlight posts from March as members like specialty content and this might see increased engagement. The communications team will also get a stakeholder list of kindred organisations to see if they can promote the Pathology Portal again through their newsletters, website or member communications. Finally, Samantha may be able to speak to the editor of the Pathologist magazine regarding an interview article at some point in the next few months, which would be good to promote the Pathology Portal including internationally. Professor Martin said this would be good. The



Pathology Portal will also look to be present at the British Society of Haematology meeting in April 2026 as it has been the last few years.

6. Any other business

Sandra Dewar mentioned that the first drop-in session of 2026 was run in January and there were four people that joined which is a large increase compared to previous months which were quiet. Sandra has a few ideas regarding how engagement can be increased as currently it can be a challenge if people join without using their camera or microphone.

Professor Cohen asked about promotion of the Pathology Portal and if working with The Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland (PathSoc) had been considered, along with the British division in June, in Manchester. Professor Cohen is also hosting the European Paediatric Pathology Conference in Sheffield in September. Professor Martin said this would be great. Professor Cohen said she can ask her colleague who is attending to do a short presentation on the Pathology Portal. Professor Martin said there are some existing materials that can be shared and to get in touch with Luke, but also Professor Martin is attending Path Soc and so may be able to get the Pathology Portal promoted.

Samantha also mentioned that the College Achievement awards have launched and there are 7 categories in an expanded format, someone linked to the Pathology Portal could be nominated.

7. Date of next meetings 2025

- Wednesday 3 June 2026 (2pm – 3pm)
- Wednesday 2 September 2026 (2pm – 3pm)



Action Log - Pathology Portal Project Board

Date of meeting	Item # from minutes	Action required	Person responsible	Status	Comments
4-Dec-25	3	Luke Thrower to create messaging to go out requesting nominations for outstanding trainees.	Luke Thrower	Open	A draft email is with Professor Martin, Dr Youd and Sandra Dewar for review.
4-Dec-25	4	Professor Cohen to initiate further discussions regarding examination materials.	Professor Cohen	Open	Professor Cohen has followed up with Dr Clair Evans
4-Dec-25	5	Samantha Jayaram and Luke Thrower to further discuss stakeholder engagement plans.	Samantha Jayaram and Luke Thrower	Closed	Luke and Samantha have met and updates are in the minutes.
4-Dec-25	5	Luke Thrower to follow up on production of spotlight posts.	Luke Thrower	Closed	Plan is in place and this work is business as usual.
4-Feb-26	4	Professor Martin to speak to Professor Flanagan	Professor Martin	Open	



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4-Feb-26	4	Jo Brinklow to send Professor Martin the email address for Annette Nicole	Jo Brinklow	Open	
4-Feb-26	4	Jo Brinklow to chase Daniel Ross for budget sheet	Jo Brinklow	Open	

