

# UK NEQAS

Immunocytochemistry & In-Situ Hybridisation



7833  
ISO 17043:2023 Accredited

## The Referrals Service

Kally Sidhu

## What is the Referrals Service?

- Provides laboratories with feedback and opinion on their staining.
- Unaccredited service.
- No cap on the number of requests that can be made.
- Two categories; Quality Improvement Following Assessment (QIFA) and Feedback and Opinion.

# Overview

## QIFA

- Use this service if you received a poor score in the previous assessment run and optimisation/validation is required.
- Free of charge.
- Contact us prior to sending slides because we may be able to provide you with material to stain alongside your own.
- No definite turn around time, but we aim to provide a report within 14 days of receipt.

UK NEQAS

Immunocytochemistry & In-Situ Hybridisation

5 Coldbath Square, London EC1R 5HL

Phone: +44(0)208 187 9174

Email: [info@ukneqasiccish.org](mailto:info@ukneqasiccish.org)

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT

**IMPORTANT: Do not use this form for an Appeal or Referral. Please use the appropriate forms provided for these requests.**

Our Quality Improvement Service is available to registered participants of the UK NEQAS ICC and ISH Scheme. The Quality Improvement Service provides participants with the opportunity to submit material to UK NEQAS ICC and ISH outside of the standard scheme schedule for opinion and feedback and should be regarded as an adjunct to your own internal validation and verification procedures.

- The service provides feedback on staining following re-optimisation of protocols, which may be due to low scores in a previous UK NEQAS assessment or concerns with in-house staining for those antibodies included in the UK NEQAS ICC and ISH scope.
- Optimisation changes to methodology, platform or reagents for those antibodies included in the UK NEQAS ICC and ISH Scope of Accreditation can be sent through this referral service.
- Requests may be reviewed by UK NEQAS ICC and ISH scientific staff, our assessors or other external expert specialists.
- Turnaround times will vary, but these types of requests will be reviewed as soon as possible to ensure that feedback is provided sooner if changes are required for a particular test. The scheme aims to provide a report within 14 working days for this type of request.
- As part of a participant's annual subscription this service is free of charge.

Please supply all requested details:

Date of Request	
Participant Number	
Requested by (enter name)	
Module and antigen	
Primary ab. clone, product code, supplier	
Material(s)	

Accompanying notes (continue on a separate sheet/overleaf if necessary):

Send in a separate form for each antigen/request.  
Return the completed form with your slides and email a copy to: [referrals@ukneqasiccish.org](mailto:referrals@ukneqasiccish.org)

INTERNAL USE ONLY:

Date of receipt:

Number of slides:

Reference number:

Staff initials:

UKAS

UK NEQAS

ICC & ISH

NEQ QF68 v3

Author: D Wilkinson

Date of issue: May 2023

Approved by: S Parry

UK NEQAS ICC & ISH is hosted by External Quality Assessment Services for Cancer Diagnostics  
(Community Interest Company, No. 1050508)

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# Overview

## Feedback & Opinion

- Use this service for all other instances.
- A fee of £75 plus per antibody plus VAT, when applicable.
- Turnaround time of 3 months from receipt of payment of invoice.
- Report released once payment is confirmed.

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REFERRAL REQUEST: FEEDBACK OR OPINION OF STAINING

**IMPORTANT:** Do not use this form for an Appeal or Quality Improvement following Assessment. Please use the appropriate forms provided for these requests.

This form is to be used when sending antibodies to the scheme for opinion only. This is for markers that you would like to be reviewed but have not been requested as part of the routine EQA assessments and require expert feedback.

The assessment of staining quality we provide is based on the opinion of our reviewers and should not be regarded as an endorsement from UK NEQAS ICC & ISH of stain validation and/or verification. The service is an adjunct to, not an alternative to, your own internal validation/verification procedures. The service is a non-accredited activity, and results do not form part of your EQA record.

- Requests may be reviewed by UK NEQAS ICC scientific staff, our assessors, other external specialists.
- All requests will incur a fee of £75. Please contact us before sending any slides. Your request will be reviewed by our management team and an invoice will be generated for your laboratory to raise a PO.
- Turnaround times will be within three months of payment of the invoice, subject to other work commitments.
- Slide review reports will not be provided until an invoice payment has been received by UK NEQAS ICC and ISH.
- When completing the form, please provide your staining protocol and as much information as possible to allow us to provide valuable feedback.

Please supply all requested details:

Date of Request	
Participant Number	
Requested by (enter name)	
Module and antigen	
Primary ab. clone, product code, supplier	
Material(s)	

Accompanying notes (continue on a separate sheet/overleaf if necessary):

Send in a separate form for each antigen/request.

Return the completed form with your slides and email a copy to: [referrals@ukneqasiccish.org](mailto:referrals@ukneqasiccish.org)

INTERNAL USE ONLY:

Date of receipt:

Number of slides:

Reference number:

Staff initials:

UK NEQAS

Immunocytochemistry & In-Situ Hybridisation

NEQ MP54 v6

Author: D Wilkinson

Date of issue: March 2023

Approved by: S Parry

UK NEQAS ICC & ISH is hosted by External Quality Assessment Services for Cancer Diagnostics

(Community Interest Company No. 10503620)

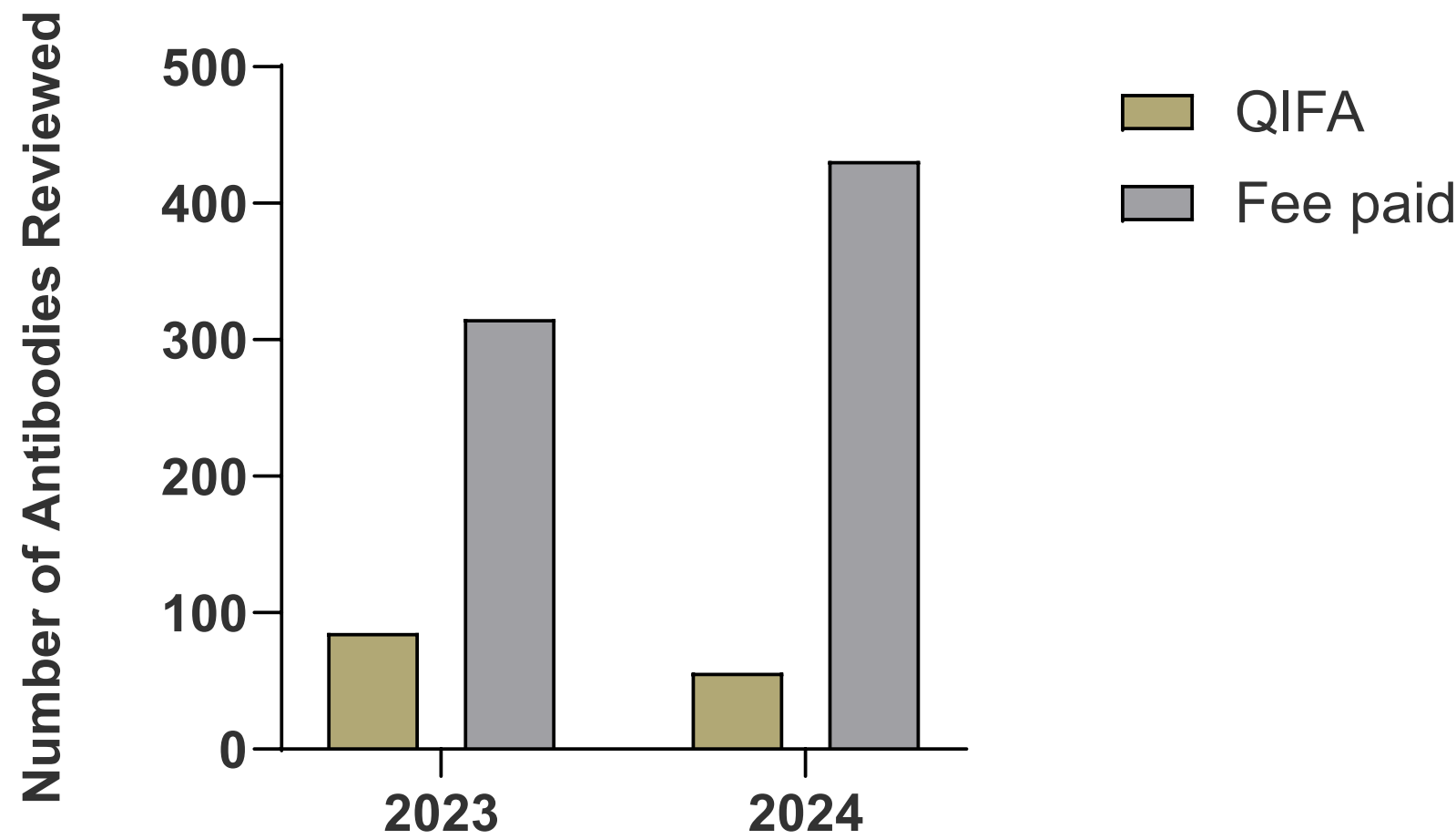
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# What we need from you

- Details of platform, protocol, antibody and identities of the control tissues used for each antibody.
- Scanned and completed forms e-mailed to the referrals mailbox and hard copies enclosed with the slides.
- Mark the envelopes as 'Referrals'.
- Antibodies requested and participant number stated on Purchase Orders.

# Referral service data



[referrals@ukneqasiccish.org](mailto:referrals@ukneqasiccish.org)

Forms can be found on our website at:  
<https://ukneqasiccish.org/participants-area/forms/>



Thank  
you !