

How to donate your body

Human bodies are used to teach students about the structure of the body and how it works; they may also be used to train surgeons and other healthcare professionals. People decide in advance to donate their body after their death. These donations are highly valued by staff and students at anatomy establishments.

A donated body can be used for a number of possible purposes:

1. "Anatomical examination" - this term describes the teaching of the structure and function of the human body to students or healthcare professionals.
2. "Research" - this term describes scientific studies which improve the understanding of the human body.
3. "Education and training" - these terms describe the training of healthcare professionals, usually those learning surgical techniques, as opposed to anatomical examination.

Further information is available in our [FAQs](#).

The role of the HTA in body donation

The HTA licences and inspects establishments, such as medical schools, which use donated bodies.

The HTA provides general information on body donation but does not provide detailed information on behalf of each medical school, such as body donation acceptance criteria or opening times. This kind of information can only be obtained directly from the medical school.

How to donate your body for anatomical examination

Under the Human Tissue Act 2004, written and witnessed consent for anatomical examination must be given prior to death; consent cannot be given by anyone else after your death. A consent form can be obtained from your nearest medical school and a copy should be kept with your Will. You should also inform your family, close friends and GP that you wish to donate your body.

Medical schools which accept donated bodies will normally only accept donations from within their local area due to the transport costs involved. Offers of body donation from outside the area may be accepted on the condition that the donor's estate bears the cost of transporting the body. Full details can be obtained directly from the Bequeathal Secretary at your nearest medical school.

Several medical schools are also involved in research requiring donated bodies. Your nearest school will be able to advise you on this.

Information on how to donate your brain for research can be found at the page 'Donating your brain'.

Body donation FAQs

Frequently asked questions about body donation.

- Will the body donation consent form I signed 10 years ago still be accepted?
- I have recently moved to a different part of the country. Will I need to fill in a new body donation consent form?
- Can I donate my body if I am also on the NHS Organ Donor Register?
- Are there any limitations or conditions to body donation?
- What happens if my body is not accepted?
- If I donate my body, will there be a funeral or memorial service?
- Are there any costs or payments involved?

I signed a body donation consent form 10 years ago and recently heard that a new law, affecting body donation, came into force in 2006. Will the consent form I originally signed be accepted when I die or must I complete a new form?

Although the new law affecting body donation (the Human Tissue Act 2004) came into force on 1 September 2006, it allows documented and valid consent for body donation made under the old law to be honoured. To avoid any unnecessary confusion or delays after you die, it is recommended that you include an updated intention to donate your body in your Will. More details can be obtained directly from the anatomy establishment to which you wish to donate your body.

I have recently moved to a different part of the country. Will I need to fill in a new body donation consent form?

Not necessarily. A form completed for one anatomy establishment might also be acceptable to another. More details can be obtained directly from the anatomy establishment to which you wish to donate your body.

If you have moved to a new area of the country, but still want to donate your body to the anatomy establishment linked to your old post code, please contact the establishment for more details. Some medical schools may request that your estate contributes to the cost of transporting your body if the donation falls outside of the medical school's local area.

Can I donate my body if I am also on the organ transplant donor register?

People who choose to donate their body or organs do so in the hope that they will be useful to others after their death. Despite being separate donation systems, it is possible for a person to be registered as an organ donor and to have registered their wish to donate their body, after death, to a medical school.

Medical schools will usually decline a body donation if the person has undergone surgery to remove organs for transplantation. However, if after their death, the person is found unsuitable to be an organ donor, then body donation to a medical school can be taken forward by the relatives, solicitor or executor of the Will.

If a person wishes to register for both organ donation and body donation, the HTA suggests that the person includes this in their Will and ensures that those closest to them are aware of their wishes.

For more information on organ donation please visit the [NHS Blood and Transplant](#) website.

Are there any limitations or conditions to body donation?

All medical schools welcome the offer of a donation. However, certain medical conditions may lead to the offer being declined. These conditions and any other reasons for a body donation being declined can be obtained from each medical school.

What happens if my body is not accepted?

If a medical school is unable to accept your donation, they may be able to help you find another school which can accept your body.

However, if no medical school is able to accept your offer, your estate will need to make suitable funeral arrangements.

If I donate my body, will there be a funeral or memorial service?

Medical schools will usually arrange for donated bodies to be cremated, unless the family requests the return of the body for a private burial or cremation.

Medical schools may hold a memorial service. Further information can be obtained directly from the medical school.

Are there any costs or payments involved?

You will not receive any payment for donating your body.

Some medical schools may request that the donor's estate contribute to the cost of transporting the body, particularly if the donation falls outside of the medical school's local area. Full details can be obtained directly from the medical school.

Contact details for medical schools (by postcode)

First two letters of the postcode	Area	Contact
AB	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
AL	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
B	BIRMINGHAM	Jean Brooks - Tel: 0121 414 6811
BA	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
BB	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
BD	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
BH	SOUTHAMPTON	Hayley Rawlings - Tel: 023 80 795763
BL	MANCHESTER	Pamela Hall - Tel: 0161 275 5241
BN	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
BR	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
BS	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
BT	BELFAST	Tel: 028 9097 2131
CA	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
CB	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
CF	CARDIFF	Swaran Yarnell or his Assistant Lisa Mead – 02920 874370
CH	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
CM	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
CO	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
CR	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
CT	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
CV	LEICESTER	Lynda Langford - Tel: 0116 252 3082
CW	KEELE	Fliss Dunn - Tel: 01782 584690
DA	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
DD	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
DE	NOTTINGHAM	Alison Bexon - Tel: 0115 823 0143
DG	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
DH	NEWCASTLE	Linda Dudley - 0191 222 6616
DL	NEWCASTLE	Linda Dudley - 0191 222 6616
DN1 - 13	SHEFFIELD	Jane Collins or Wendy Howard - Tel:0114 222 4642
DN14 - 37	HULL	Jackie Houlton - Tel: 01482 464750
DT	SOUTHAMPTON	Hayley Rawlings - Tel: 023 80 795763
DY	BIRMINGHAM	Jean Brooks - Tel: 0121 414 6811
E	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
EC	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
EH	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
EN	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
EX	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
FK	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
FY	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
G	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
GL	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
GU	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
HA	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
HD	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
HG	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
HP	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
HR	BIRMINGHAM	Jean Brooks - Tel: 0121 414 6811
HU	HULL	Jackie Houlton - Tel: 01482 464750

HX	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
IG	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
IM	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
IP	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
IV	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
KA	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
KT	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
KW	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
KY	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
L	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
LA	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
LD	CARDIFF	Swaran Yarnell or his Assistant Lisa Mead – 02920 874370
LE	LEICESTER	Lynda Langford - Tel: 0116 252 3082
LL	KEELE	Fliss Dunn - Tel: 01782 584690
LN	NOTTINGHAM	Alison Bexon - Tel: 0115 823 0143
LS	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
LU	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
M	MANCHESTER	Pamela Hall - Tel: 0161 275 5241
ME	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
MK	LEICESTER	Lynda Langford - Tel: 0116 252 3082
ML	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
N	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
NE	NEWCASTLE	Linda Dudley - 0191 222 6616
NG	NOTTINGHAM	Alison Bexon - Tel: 0115 823 0143
NN	LEICESTER	Lynda Langford - Tel: 0116 252 3082
NP	CARDIFF	Swaran Yarnell or his Assistant Lisa Mead – 02920 874370
NR	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
NW	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
OL	MANCHESTER	Pamela Hall - Tel: 0161 275 5241
OX	OXFORD	Natalie Watkins - Tel: 01865 272181
PA	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
PE (Cambs & Norfolk)	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
PE (Not Cambs & Norfolk)	LEICESTER	Lynda Langford - Tel: 0116 252 3082
PH	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
PL	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
PO	SOUTHAMPTON	Hayley Rawlings- Tel: 023 80 795763
PR	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
RG	OXFORD	Natalie Watkins - Tel: 01865 272181
RH	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
RM	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
S	SHEFFIELD	Jane Collins or Wendy Howard - Tel:0114 222 4642
SA	CARDIFF	Swaran Yarnell or his Assistant Lisa Mead - 02920 874370
SE	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
SG	CAMBRIDGE	Lynn Haythorpe - Tel: 01223 333776
SK (10 - 11 - 17)	KEELE	Fliss Dunn - Tel: 01782 584690
SK (All but 10 - 11 - 17)	MANCHESTER	Pamela Hall - Tel: 0161 275 5241
SL	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
SM	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
SN	OXFORD	Natalie Watkins - Tel: 01865 272181
SO	SOUTHAMPTON	Hayley Rawlings - Tel: 023 80 795763
SP	SOUTHAMPTON	Hayley Rawlings - Tel: 023 80 795763
SR	NEWCASTLE	Linda Dudley - 0191 222 6616
SS	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196

ST	KEELE	Fliss Dunn - Tel: 01782 584690
SW	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
SY (English Counties/Powys)	BIRMINGHAM	Jean Brooks - Tel: 0121 414 6811
SY (Other Welsh Counties)	CARDIFF	Swaran Yarnell or his Assistant Lisa Mead - 02920874370
TA	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
TD	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184
TF	KEELE	Fliss Dunn - Tel: 01782 584690
TN	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
TQ	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
TR	BRISTOL	Janet Skinner - Tel: 0117 928 8137
TS	NEWCASTLE	Linda Dudley - 0191 222 6616
TW	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
UB	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
W	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
WA	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
WC	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
WD	LONDON	Louise Evans - Tel: 020 8725 5196
WF	LEEDS	Sarah Wilson - Tel: 0113 343 4297
WN	LIVERPOOL	Dee Tully - Tel: 0151 794 5442
WR	BIRMINGHAM	Jean Brooks - Tel: 0121 414 6811
WS	KEELE	Fliss Dunn - Tel: 01782 584690
WV	BIRMINGHAM	Jean Brooks - Tel: 0121 414 6811
YO	HULL	Jackie Houlton - Tel: 01482 464750
ZE	SCOTLAND	Richard Dimelow - Tel: 0131 244 5184

Contact details for medical schools (by region)

Brighton and Sussex, Imperial College London, Kings College London, Queen Mary University of London, St George's University of London, University College London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Contact: Louise Evans, Anatomy Donations Co-ordinator

Tel: 020 8725 5196

lao@sgul.ac.uk

University of Birmingham

Department of Anatomy

Vincent Drive

Edgbaston

B15 2TT

Contact: Jean Brooks

Tel: 0121 414 6811

j.s.brooks@bham.ac.uk

University of Bristol

Comparative Morphology Centre

Southwell Street

Bristol

BS2 8EJ

Contact: Janet Skinner

Tel: 0117 928 8137

janet.a.skinner@bristol.ac.uk

University of Cambridge

Department of Anatomy
Downing Street
CB2 3DY
Contact: Lynn Haythorpe
Tel: 01223 333776
Leh42@cam.ac.uk

Cardiff University

Cardiff School of Biosciences
Museum Avenue
Cardiff
CF10 3US
Contact: Swaran Yarnell or his Assistant Lisa Mead
Tel: 02920 874370
yarnellsg@cardiff.ac.uk meadl1@cardiff.ac.uk

Hull York Medical School

The University of Hull
Hull
HU6 7RX
Contact: Jackie Houlton
Tel: 01482 464750
Jackie.houlton@hyms.ac.uk

Keele University

School of Medicine Anatomy Facility
Staffordshire
ST5 5BG
Contact: Fliss Dunn
Tel: 01782 584690
f.h.dunn@hfac.keele.ac.uk

University of Leeds

Faculty of Biomedical Sciences
Leeds
LS2 9JT
Contact: Sarah Wilson
Tel: 0113 343 4297
s.j.moore@leeds.ac.uk

Leicester University

Department of Medical and Social Care Education
Faculty of Medicine
PO BOX 138
University Road
Leicester
LE1 9HN
Contact: Lynda Langford
Tel: 0116 252 3082
ll94@le.ac.uk

University of Liverpool

Department of Human Anatomy & Cell Biology
Sherrington Buildings
Ashton Street
Liverpool
L69 3GE
Contact: Dee Tully
Tel: 0151 794 5442
dmtully@liverpool.ac.uk

University of Manchester

Faculty of Life Sciences
1.124 Stopford Building
Oxford Road
M13 9PT
Contact: Pamela Hall
Tel: 0161 275 5241
Pamela.hall@manchester.ac.uk

Newcastle University

School of Medical Education Development
Anatomy and Clinical Skills
Framlington Place
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 4HH
Contact: Linda Dudley
Tel: 0191 222 6616
l.a.dudley@ncl.ac.uk

University of Nottingham

School of Biomedical Sciences
Medical School
Queens Medical Centre
Nottingham
NG7 2UH
Contact: Alison Bexon
Tel: 0115 823 0143
alison.bexon@nottingham.ac.uk

University of Oxford

Department of Human Anatomy and Genetics
South Parks Road
Oxford
OX1 3QX
Contact: Natalie Watkins
Tel: 01865 272181
bequests@dpag.ox.ac.uk

University of Sheffield

The Medical Teaching Unit
Department of Biomedical Science
Addison Building
Western Bank
Sheffield
S10 2TN
Contact: Jane Collins or Wendy Howard
Tel: 0114 222 4642
j.collins@sheffield.ac.uk or w.howard@sheffield.ac.uk

University of Southampton

Centre for Learning Anatomical Sciences
Division of Medical Education
Mailpoint 845
Level B South Academic Block
Southampton General Hospital
Tremona Road
SO16 6YD
Contact: Hayley Rawlings
Tel: 023 80 795763
H.Rawlings@southampton.ac.uk

Queen's University Belfast

Division of Basic Medical Sciences/Anatomy School of Medicine and Dentistry
Whitla Medical Building
97 Lisburn Road
Belfast
BT9 7BL
Tel: 028 9097 2131
anatomy@qub.ac.uk

The HTA does not regulate medical schools in Scotland. If you wish to enquire about donating your body to a medical school in Scotland, please contact:

Richard Dimelow
Health Quality and Safety Branch G.ER
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
Tel: 0131 244 5184
richard.dimelow@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Donating your brain

Diseases of the brain are increasingly common in the UK due to an ageing population suffering from conditions such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. There are no known cures for many of these diseases, so high priority is given to research seeking to understand them better - potentially leading to new treatments.

Scientists study human tissue to improve their understanding of how diseases start and progress, and what keeps us healthy. Research such as this often leads to different ways of diagnosing disease and can help develop new treatments.

To ensure research is thorough, it is also extremely important to have access to brain tissue from deceased people who did not have diseases. This is known as control tissue and it is crucial that scientists have access to this so that they can compare it directly with tissue from a person with a disease. These valuable donations are essential for developing new and better treatments for people with diseases and in the search for a cure.

Brain donation has helped with the discovery and treatment of diseases such as schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

The role of the HTA in brain donation

The HTA licences organisations that store human tissue, including brains, for research. We believe that good regulation supports good science, which in turn improves healthcare. The HTA ensures that tissue is removed and stored in an appropriate and well-managed way. Our regulation ensures that the public and researchers can have confidence that the wishes of individual patients and their families are respected. Medical research needs the best quality tissue to work on, and the HTA's regulation helps ensure it is stored to high standards.

How to donate your brain for research

The following human tissue banks accept brain and spinal tissue for research. As well as needing particular types of tissue from people with the conditions named below, they also accept donations of brain and spinal tissue from people without these conditions as controls to the research.

If you require further assistance, you can contact one of the HTA Regulation Assistants: 020 7211 3437/ 020 7269 1947

Contact details for brain banks

Brains for Dementia Research (BDR)

Brains for Dementia Research Co-ordinating Centre
Wolfson Centre for Age Related Diseases
King's College London
St Thomas' Street
London SE1 1UL

Contact: Dr Gillian Hayes
T 020 7848 8377 (Includes out-of-hours contact / message facilities)
F 020 7848 6515
E bdr.office@kcl.ac.uk
W <http://www.brainsfordementiaresearch.org.uk/>

Cambridge Brain Bank

Cambridge Brain Bank
Department Histopathology
Level 5 Box 235
Addenbrooke's Hospital
Hills Road
Cambridge CB2 0QQ

Contact: Beverley Haynes / Jenny Wilson
T 01223 217336
E brbank@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Cardiff Brain Bank

Dept of Neuropathology
University of Wales
College of Medicine
Heath Park
Cardiff
CF14 4XN

Contact: Dr JW Neal
T 02920 744284
F 02920 744276
E JWNeal@doctors.org.uk

London Neurodegenerative Diseases Brain Bank

Institute of Psychiatry
Box PO65
King's College London
De Crespigny Park
London SE5 8AF

Contact: Dr Claire Troakes
T 020 7848 0290 (Office hours)
T 020 7848 0002 (Out-of-hours, manned 24/7)
F 020 7848 0275
E bdr.office@kcl.ac.uk
W <http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/brainbank>

Manchester Brain Bank

Cerebral Function Unit
Greater Manchester Neuroscience Centre
Hope Hospital
Stott Lane
Salford
M6 8HD

Contact: Stephen Chew-Graham
T 0161 789 7373 (ext 2561)
E brainbank@manchester.ac.uk

Newcastle Brain Bank

Newcastle Brain Tissue Resource
Institute for Ageing and Health
Newcastle University
Campus for Ageing and Vitality
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 5PL

Contact: Debbie Lett
T: 01912 481231
E nbtr@ncl.ac.uk

Northern Ireland Regional Neuropathology Service

Regional Neuropathology Service
The Royal Victoria Hospital
Grosvenor Road
Belfast BT12 6BA

Contact: Dr M Mirakhur
T 028 9063 2319
E meenakshi.mirakhur@bll.n-i.nhs.uk

Queen Square Brain Bank for Neurological Disorders

UCL Institute of Neurology
Institute of Neurology
1 Wakefield Street
London WC1N 3BG

Contact: Susan Stoneham
T 020 7837 8370
F 020 7278 4993
E s.stoneham@ion.ucl.ac.uk

South West Dementia Brain Bank (SWDBB)

Dementia Research Group
The John James Building
Frenchay Day Hospital
Bristol BS16 1LE

Contact: Laura Palmer
T 0117 340 3070
F 0117 918 6665
E laura.e.palmer@bristol.ac.uk

Thomas Willis Oxford Brain Collection

Neuropathology Dept
Level 1, West Wing
John Radcliffe Hospital
Headley Way, Headington
Oxford OX3 9DU

Contact: Professor Margaret Esiri
T 01865 234904 / 01865 234403 (Includes out-of-hours message service)
F 01865 231157
E margaret.esiri@clneuro.ox.ac.uk

Multiple Sclerosis Society Tissue Bank

Wolfson Neuroscience Laboratories
Imperial College Faculty of Medicine
Hammersmith Hospital Campus
Burlington Danes Building
160 Du Cane Road
London W12 0NN

Contact: Dr George Gveric
T 020 7594 9734
F 020 7594 9735
E ukmstissuebank@imperial.ac.uk

UK Parkinson's Disease Society Tissue Bank

Wolfson Neuroscience Laboratories
Imperial College Faculty of Medicine
Hammersmith Hospital Campus
Burlington Danes Building
160 Du Cane Road
London W12 0NN

Contact: Dr George Gveric
T 020 7594 9732
F 020 7594 9733
E pdbank@imperial.ac.uk

(This list was last updated in February 2010)