

Human Tissue Authority  
151 Buckingham Palace Road  
London  
SW1W 9SZ

[REDACTED]

By email to [REDACTED]

**Tel** 020 7269 1900  
**Web** [www.hta.gov.uk](http://www.hta.gov.uk)  
**Email** [enquiries@hta.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hta.gov.uk)  
**Date** 8 January 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

### Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which was received by the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) on 10 December 2018. Your email outlined the following request:

Dear Human Tissue Authority,

For the years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 we would like to know for audit purposes, how many:

1. Eyes have been donated in the United Kingdom?
2. Cornea-Scleral discs (Cornea tissue) have been issued by the eyebanks in the United Kingdom for transplantation?
3. Cornea-Scleral discs (Cornea tissue) have been imported into the United Kingdom for transplantation?

We would like to receive the information in electronic format by email.

Thank you for your help

### Response

Please find below data relating to your request for information under the FOIA.

The information provided has been collated from annual activity returns submitted by establishments licensed by the HTA under the Human Tissue (Quality and Safety for Human Application) Regulations 2007 (as amended). Please note, the HTA does not collect the exact information requested; the most relevant information from annual activity returns has been provided in each case.

Year	Number of corneas procured under an HTA licence	Number of corneas used in a transplant within a licensed tissue establishment* <sup>1</sup>	Number of corneas distributed by a licensed tissue establishment to another establishment within the UK or EEA* <sup>2</sup>	Number of corneas distributed by a licensed tissue establishment to another establishment in the UK	Number of corneas distributed by a licensed tissue establishment to another establishment in the EEA	Number of corneas imported from outside the EEA	Number of corneas imported from another EU Member State* <sup>3</sup>
2014	6076	1312	3896	-	-	289	-
2015	6067	1360	3636	-	-	342	-
2016	5719	983	4218	-	-	0	-
2017	5816	1085	-	4483	0	447	58

\*<sup>1</sup> The HTA does not collect data on the total number of cornea transplants performed in the UK on an annual basis. Corneal transplants performed by establishments that do not hold an HTA licence are not captured here.

\*<sup>2</sup> A proportion of the corneas distributed for end use may have been received by licensed tissue establishments that may have also reported these units as used in a transplant within their establishment.

\*<sup>3</sup> Prior to 2017, the HTA did not collect data on the number of units imported into the UK from other EU Member States. The data for 2014-2016 reflects the number of units imported from outside of the EEA in those years.

## Further information

If you are unhappy with the way the HTA has handled your request for information in this case, you may in the first instance ask us for an internal review by writing to us at the above postal or email address.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have the right to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision, at the address below. There is no charge for making an appeal.

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45

Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

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