

Human Tissue Authority
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SZ

By email to [REDACTED]

Tel 020 7269 1900
Web www.hta.gov.uk
Email enquiries@hta.gov.uk
Date 3 July 2020

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 1 July 2020. Your email outlined the following request:

I would like to request the following information from your organisation under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. What is your organisations current staff headcount?
2. What was your organisations annual budget for the financial year 2019-2020?
3. Does your organisation have or contract with a counter fraud specialist?
4. If yes to question 3, is this provision employed directly by your organisation, outsourced to a public sector provider or outsourced to a private sector provider?
5. What level of provision do you have to tackle fraud, bribery and corruption within your organisation (number of funded days a year)?
6. How many fraud, bribery or corruption referrals did your organisation receive during the financial year 2019-2020?
7. How many criminal investigations did your organisation carry out during the financial year 2019-2020?
8. What was the fraud loss figure identified by your organisation during the financial year 2019-2020?
9. How much of your identified fraud loss was recovered by your organisation during the financial year 2019-2020?
10. How many criminal sanctions relating to fraud, bribery and corruption did your organisation apply during the financial year 2019-2020?
11. How many disciplinary sanctions relating to fraud, bribery or corruption did your organisation apply during the financial year 2019-2020?
12. What was the total cost of your organisations counter fraud staffing during 2019-2020?

Response

1. Our current staff headcount is 46 (as at June 2020).
2. The annual budget for the financial year 2019-2020 was £5.3m.
3. The HTA does not have a contract with a counter fraud specialist but does have access to the Anti-Fraud Unit (AFU) of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).
4. As above, if required, we would use the services of DHSC AFU.
5. We include where possible a review of our process and policies within our internal audit program. As a small organisation we would not set a provision.
6. The HTA received nil referrals for fraud, bribery or corruption during the financial year 2019-2020.
7. The HTA carried out one investigation during the financial year 2019-2020.
8. The fraud loss figure identified by the HTA was £5,600 during the financial year 2019-2020.
9. All of the above identified fraud loss was recovered during the financial year 2019-2020.
10. The HTA did not apply any criminal sanctions relating to fraud, bribery and corruption during the financial year 2019-2020.
11. The HTA did not apply any disciplinary sanctions relating to fraud, bribery or corruption during the financial year 2019-2020.
12. The cost of counter fraud staffing cannot be easily identified as no single staff member has responsibility for fraud.

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

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