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Date 07 April 2020

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Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which you sent to the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) on 16 January 2020. Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying to you. We received your email on 10 March 2020, because it was not redirected as per the out of office reply.

Your email outlined the following request:

Please can I request the following information

Disclosing information about HTA Reportable Incidents (HTARIs) under Freedom of Information Act 2000

A list of all HTARIs that took place in 2019 detailing the following information:

- Where the incident took place
- Incident classification
- Description summary of the HTARI

Response

The HTA holds information about HTARIs reported to have occurred in 2019. In considering your request for this information, we conclude some of the information we hold is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the absolute exemption under section 21 of the FOIA. This is because this information is easily accessible by other means. This information is published on our website in responses previous FOIA requests.

www.hta.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019%20HTARI%20reports%20FOI%20response.pdf

www.hta.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Freedom%20of%20Information%20Request%20on%20HTA%20Reportable%20Incidents%202019%20by%20Month%20and%20Establishment.pdf

Information is provided in the table below for incidents reported to have occurred in 2019. This is for incidents determined to be HTARIs and which have been closed on our systems.

Date incident occurred	Establishment (hub site)	Licence number	Incident classification	Summary of incident
Mar-19	Rotherham General Hospital	12288	Release of the wrong body	Human error led to the release of a wrong body.
Apr-19	Dorset County Hospital	12449	Loss, disposal or retention of a whole fetus or fetal tissue (gestational age less than 24 weeks) against the express wishes of the family	Procedural error led to retention of tissues.
May-19	Leicester Royal Infirmary	12337	Loss of an organ or tissue	Human error led to loss of tissue.
Jun-19	Whiston Hospital	12043	Loss, disposal or retention of a whole fetus or fetal tissue (gestational age less than 24 weeks) against the express wishes of the family	Communication errors led to the retention of tissue.
Aug-19	Arrowe Park Hospital	12027	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Communication errors led to a post-mortem examination not being conducted.
Sep-19	Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital	12362	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Complaint of alleged theft of valuables.
Sep-19	William Harvey Hospital	30011	Release of the wrong body	Human error led to the short-term release of the wrong body.
Sep-19	Pathlinks (Lincoln)	12314	Viewing of the wrong body	Procedural error led to a viewing of a wrong body.
Oct-19	Queen Elizabeth Hospital	12368	Loss of an organ or tissue	Human error led to loss of tissue.

Oct-19	Birmingham Women's Hospital	12565	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Procedural error led to an external examination of the body not being conducted.
Nov-19	University Hospital of North Durham	12461	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to minor damage to a body whilst being placed into refrigerated storage.
Nov-19	Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury	12616	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body.
Nov-19	Eastbourne District General Hospital	12141	Serious security breach	Authorised visitors to the mortuary were unsupervised.
Nov-19	Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	12096	Release of the wrong body	Procedural error led to the release of the wrong body.
Nov-19	University Hospital of North Tees	12446	Serious security breach	Human error led to breach in mortuary security processes and release procedures.
Nov-19	University Hospital of North Durham	12461	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to minor damage to a body whilst being placed into refrigerated storage.
Nov-19	University Hospital of North Durham	12461	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to damage to a body in refrigerated storage.
Nov-19	Walthamstow Public Mortuary	12420	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to minor damage to a body during a post-mortem examination.
Nov-19	St George's Hospital	12387	Major equipment failure	Major equipment failure of the ventilation system in the post mortem room.
Nov-19	St George's Hospital	12387	Incident leading to the temporary unplanned closure of a mortuary resulting in an inability to deliver services	Staffing levels led to temporary unplanned closure of the mortuary.
Nov-19	Whiston Hospital	12043	Release of the wrong body	Human error led to the short-term release of the wrong body.

Dec-19	Holly Tree Lodge	12405	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Administrative error led to early release of a body.
Dec-19	Addenbrooke's Hospital	12318	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to minor damage to a body whilst being placed into refrigerated storage.
Dec-19	Peterborough City Hospital	30032	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to minor damage to a body.
Dec-19	Dorset County Hospital	12449	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to minor damage to a body.
Dec-19	Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust	12554	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body during post-mortem examination.

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

Yours sincerely,

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