

Human Tissue Authority
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London
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██████████

By email to ██████████

Tel 020 7269 1900
Web www.hta.gov.uk
Email enquiries@hta.gov.uk
Date 31 January 2018

Dear ██████████

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 11 January 2019. Your email outlined the following request:

Dear HTA,

Please accept this request for the following information under the FOI Act:

Details of all post mortem reportable incidents recorded by the HTA in the 2018 calendar year.

For each incident, please provide the HTA-licensed establishment that reported the incident and the submitted description of the incident.

Response

The information that you have requested is set out in the table below and in a separate re-usable spreadsheet format attached to this letter. I note that you have requested the “submitted descriptions” of the incident. Please be advised that the table contains details of individual incidents in a summarised format.

The HTA does hold the specific details of individual HTARIs but we have formed the view that provision of such reports in their entirety and/or original format is exempt from disclosure by virtue of s31 (1) (g) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It is the HTA’s policy that disclosing these reports in full would prejudice the exercise by the Authority of its functions for certain specified purposes. Those specified purposes include the purpose of “ascertaining whether circumstances which would justify regulatory action in pursuance of any enactment exist or may arise”. The HTA’s functions, which are set out in general terms at section 15 of the HT Act, include

superintending compliance with requirements under Part 1 of the Act and with Codes of Practice made under the Act.

Establishment	Date HTARI occurred	Incident Classification	Brief Summary of HTARI
Southport Hospital	Jan-2018	Major equipment failure	Temperature probe failure led to a major equipment failure
UCL Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Jan-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Human error led to procedure not being followed
Sandwell General Hospital Mortuary	Jan-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
St George's Hospital	Jan-2018	Major equipment failure	Freezer failure in the mortuary; there was no significant damage to bodies
Wednesfield Public Mortuary	Jan-2018	Release of the wrong body	Human error led to the short-term release of the wrong body
St George's Hospital	Jan-2018	Major equipment failure	Power failure led to delayed PM examinations
Royal Victoria Infirmary	Jan-2018	Release of the wrong body	Human error led to the short term release of the wrong body
Yeovil District Hospital	Jan-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage of a body
St George's Hospital	Jan-2018	Release of the wrong body	Human error led to the short term release of a wrong body
St Bartholomew's Hospital	Jan-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage of a body
Countess of Chester Hospital	Jan-2018	Removal of tissue from a body without authorisation or consent	Human error led to removal of tissue from a body without

			appropriate consent
Watford General Hospital	Jan-2018	Viewing of the wrong body	Human error led to viewing of the wrong body
Pindersfield Mortuary	Jan-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
Colchester General Hospital	Jan-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
Hackney Public Mortuary	Jan-2018	Serious Security Breach	Unauthorised individual gained access to the mortuary
Royal Sussex County Hospital	Feb-2018	Release of the wrong body	Administrative error led to the release of the wrong body
St Thomas' Hospital	Feb-2018	Serious security breach	Unauthorised access to the mortuary
James Cook University Hospital	Feb-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Release of a body to an incorrect funeral director
Medway Maritime Hospital	Feb-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Concern expressed about the condition of a body
UCL Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Feb-2018	Serious security breach	Incorrect viewing procedure led to a security breach
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham	Feb-2018	Release of the wrong body	Human error lead to the short term release of a wrong body
UCLH Mortuary	Feb-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Human error led to inadequate supervision of visitors
The Royal Oldham Hospital	Feb-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that	Failure to locate and communicate with family, resulting in a

		may lead to damage in public confidence	complaint about actions taken
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire	Feb-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Procedural error led to minor damage to a body whilst being transferred into the mortuary
St Peter's Hospital	Feb-2018	Major equipment failure	Failure of ventilation system in post-mortem room
Sheffield Children's Hospital	Feb-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to damage of a body during a PM examination
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital	Mar-2018	Release of the wrong body	Human error led to the short term release of the wrong body
Wexham Park Hospital	Mar-2018	Major equipment failure	Fridge failure resulted in transfer of bodies to another HTA licensed establishment
Cheltenham General Hospital	Mar-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Incorrect information led to disposal of tissue
Barnet Hospital	Mar-2018	Viewing of the wrong body	Procedural error lead to the viewing of a wrong body
University Hospital of North Durham	Mar-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Unauthorised use of equipment in the mortuary
Leighton Hospital	Mar-2018	Release of the wrong body	Human error led to the short term release of the wrong body
University Hospital of Wales	Mar-2018	Disposal or retention of a whole fetus or fetal tissue (gestational age less than 24 weeks) against the express	Human error led to unauthorised retention of tissue

		wishes of the family	
Victoria Hospital	Apr-2018	Disposal or retention of a whole fetus or fetal tissue (gestational age less than 24 weeks) against the express wishes of the family	Human error led to retention of tissue
The Royal Oldham Hospital	Apr-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Access to the mortuary inappropriately authorised
Morrison Hospital	Apr-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Inappropriate storage arrangements
West Suffolk Hospital	Apr-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	Apr-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Disposal of tissue contrary to the wishes of the family
Bradford Public Mortuary & Forensic Science Centre	Apr-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
John Radcliffe Hospital	Apr-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
Harefield Hospital	May-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Human error led to a body not being returned to refrigerated storage
Wye Valley NHS Trust	May-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Procedural error led to accidental damage to a body
Royal Stoke University Hospital	May-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to

			a body
Great Western Hospital	Jun-2018	Release of the wrong body	Human error led to the release of the wrong body
Papworth Hospital	Jun-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to minor accidental damage to a body during PM examination
James Paget University Hospital	Jun-2018	Serious security breach	Alleged incident occurred while viewing the deceased
Lister Mortuary	Jun-2018	Release of the wrong body	A procedural error led to the temporary release of the wrong body
The Royal Oldham Hospital	Jun-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Defective equipment led to accidental damage to a body
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital	Jun-2018	Post mortem examination conducted was not in line with the consent given or the PM examination proceeded with inadequate consent	PM took place without appropriate consent
Addenbrooke's Hospital	Jun-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Human error led to loss of traceability of tissue
James Cooke University Hospital	Jul-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
Brighton & Hove City Mortuary	Jul-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
St Thomas' Hospital	Jul-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Human error led to the loss of traceability of tissue
James Cook University Hospital	Jul-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to

			a body
Brighton & Hove City Mortuary	Jul-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
James Cook University Hospital	Jul-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Human error led to unauthorised retention of tissue
Barnsley Hospital	Jul-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
Royal Sussex County Hospital	Jul-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Paediatric Histopathology	Jul-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Retention of tissue resulting in a complaint
Royal Liverpool University Hospital	Aug-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to minor accidental damage to a deceased person
Royal Sussex County Hospital	Aug-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
University Hospital of North Durham	Aug-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
Countess of Chester Hospital	Aug-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Release of a body to an incorrect funeral director
UCLH Mortuary	Aug-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Human error led to a security breach
Worcestershire Royal Hospital	Aug-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to

			a body
Royal Derby Hospital	Sep-2018	Disposal or retention of a whole fetus or fetal tissue (gestational age less than 24 weeks) against the express wishes of the family	Disposal of tissue contrary to the wishes of the family
William Harvey Hospital	Sep-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
Kent & Canterbury Hospital (Body Store)	Sep-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
North Tyneside General Hospital	Sep-2018	Release of the wrong body	Human error led to the short term release of the wrong body
West Suffolk Hospital	Sep-2018	Any incident not listed here that could result in adverse publicity that may lead to damage in public confidence	Human error led to the loss of traceability of tissue
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital	Sep-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
Queen's Medical Centre	Oct-2018	Discovery of an organ or tissue following post mortem examination and release of body	An administrative error led to a delay in repatriating tissue to a body
Addenbrooke's Hospital	Nov-2018	Accidental damage to a body	Human error led to accidental damage to a body
Yeovil District Hospital	Nov-2018	Release of the wrong body	Human error led to the short-term release of the wrong body
Birmingham Children's Hospital	Nov-2018	Serious security breach	Unauthorised access to the mortuary

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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