

Human Tissue Authority

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Email: enquiries@hta.gov.uk

Date: 24 July 2023

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your freedom of information request, which was received by the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) on 3 July 2023. Your email outlined the following request:

“Hi there, hope you're all well. I'd like to request under the FoI act data on how many bodies were released for public display in each of the last four calendar years, 2019-2022, broken down by year. And how many times the wrong body was released in each of those years, also broken down by year.

This information was previously released to the Mirror https://uk01.l.antigena.com//VlrOxUwiaakzAFGF2~A859OsKnYKvdkwexytO0DZhsY2N88HSDpQ9f5USkcDZJS5-vCltdBfqOOTaSIW-bd0r4mIPu_X5wLTHx1KsnkHsLp07kZCTgYmLFctWnrvmMjD9GIJCWVYHLOfInKqLse6TSgaS107xD~5JBalgEmgLiqdA_LWUJY4NnoVvq40cHT~

Please let me know if you have any questions”.

Response

The HTA does not hold information regarding how many bodies were released for the purposes of public display.

With regards to the second part of your request, we have interpreted this to mean Human Tissue Authority Reportable Incidents (HTARIs) within the Post Mortem (PM) Sector.

The HTA holds information about HTARIs and routinely publishes quarterly reports on its website. The quarterly report details the nature and volume of the incidents

reported, investigated and closed in the PM Sector, which includes the incident classification “release of the wrong body”.

In considering your request, we have concluded that the information we hold on HTARIs is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the FOI Act. This is because the information is already reasonably accessible by other means.

Information in relation to HTARIs for the calendar years 2019 to 2022 can be found as follows:

1. Information from January 2019 to December 2019 is available in response to previous FOI requests. This information is published on the Freedom of Information responses page on the HTA website [HTARI FOI](#) and [HTARI FOI](#)
2. Information from January 2020 to December 2021 is available in response to a previous FOI request. This is located on the [Freedom of Information responses page](#) on the HTA website.
3. Information for the 2022 calendar is as follows:

[Q4 2021/22 PM incident details](#)

[Q1 2022/23 PM incident details](#)

[Q2 2022/23 PM incident details](#)

[Q3 2022/23 PM incident details](#)

If you have any difficulties in accessing this information at the source which I have indicated above, please contact me again.

The HTA routinely published the information you have requested on the HTA website at the link that has been provided above.

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, 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.org.uk

Yours sincerely

