

By email to: [REDACTED]

Human Tissue Authority

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London
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Tel 020 7269 1900

Web www.hta.gov.uk

Email enquiries@hta.gov.uk

08 December 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act

Thank you for your email into the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) dated 12 November 2025 for which we gave the [REDACTED]. Your email has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA").

Your email outlined the following request ("**your request**"):

Request

To whom it may concern,

I am submitting the following request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the Human Tissue Authority (HTA).

I am seeking information relating to how the Human Tissue Act 2004 and HTA regulatory framework apply to the removal, storage, and use of human brain tissue following neurosurgical procedures.

I would be grateful if you could please provide the following:

1. Any HTA guidance, policy statements, or explanatory notes that relate specifically to:
 - a. the status of surgically removed human tissue (including any position on ownership, custodianship, and lawful possession)
 - b. consent requirements for storage or use of diagnostic surgical tissue for purposes beyond immediate clinical care (e.g., audit, quality improvement, training, research)
 - c. requirements or expectations regarding patient information provided prior to removal or storage of diagnostic surgical tissue

2. *Any sections of the HTA Codes of Practice (beyond standard published Codes) that specifically address diagnostic surgical tissue, including brain tissue, and its retention or secondary use.*
3. *HTA's interpretation of when storage of brain tissue following clinical procedures requires an HTA licence (e.g., FFPE blocks, fresh-frozen samples, biobank transfer).*
4. *Any HTA-held data or summaries describing how regulated establishments are expected to determine storage format (e.g., paraffin-embedded vs frozen) where secondary use may be contemplated.*

Please provide the information electronically.

If any part of this request is likely to exceed the FOI time or cost limit, please advise how it may be refined while preserving the core intent of the request.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature]

Response

In response to each of your numbered requests:

1. All the guidance we provide on matters within our remit - including any requirements and expectations - is provided, in full, on our website:
[The Human Tissue Authority | Human Tissue Authority](#)

As we provide the information you have requested on our website, Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

2. All our guidance - including our Codes of Practice - is provided on our website:
[The Human Tissue Authority | Human Tissue Authority](#)

As we provide the information you have requested on our website, Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

3. All the guidance we provide on matters within our remit - including any requirements and expectations - is provided, in full, on our website:
[The Human Tissue Authority | Human Tissue Authority](#)

As we provide the information you have requested on our website, Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

4. We do not hold this information

Further information

We hope you found the above response to your request clear and helpful. If you are unhappy with the way the HTA has handled your request for information in this case, or if you disagree with how we have interpreted FOIA in answering your request, you may in the first instance ask us for an Internal Review by writing to us at the above postal or email address, within two months of this reply, specifying that you would like an Internal Review to be carried out.

Any Internal Review of the HTA's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response.

Please remember to quote the case reference number above in any future communications.

If you remain dissatisfied after this Internal Review, 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,
Freedom of Information Officer