

Human Tissue Authority

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Date: 13 September 2023

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your email dated Thurs 7 September 2023. Your email outlined the following request:

“Thanks for the reply and the explanation about costs and suggestions for next steps. It is a very helpful response which I really appreciate.

In the first instance I would like to see the overview of the information you were able to collect before reaching the cost limit, subject to applicable exemptions, as explained in option 1.

I would also like to see the formal paper you mentioned which was submitted to the HTA's senior management team on 24 November 2022, plus the associated minutes. After seeing these items I will then be able to take a view about any potential further requests.”

Response

As per your request, please find the documents requested as annex to this letter.

- a copy of the paper submitted to the HTA's Senior Management Team on 24 November 2022, and;
- the associated minutes.

Some of the information found within these documents has been redacted in line with data protection legislation.

The following is a tabulated summary listing the information identified up until reaching the cost limit:

Question	Description of document	Information within the document
<p>1</p> <p>(concerning the results of our internal review)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One internal paper and minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Paper to Senior Management Team (SMT) entitled 'Organ Trafficking case and a summary of the Living Organ Donation cases review' • Associated minutes from SMT meeting
<p>2</p> <p>(concerning any HTA documents setting out increased scrutiny on Living Organ Donation cases)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two internal SOPs. • Approximately 42 emails referencing the review of private cases. • 14 intranet articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOP 111 – HTA Assessment process for living donor transplant cases • SOP 114 – HTA Internal Living Organ Donation Regulatory Decision Making • The majority of these emails include passing reference as to the progress of the case review • The intranet articles reference limited information regarding the progress of the case review as discussed at SMT meetings
<p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six emails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence between the HTA and the police

<p>(concerning correspondence with the Metropolitan Police discussing the need to inform them of suspicions of potentially illegal organ transplants)</p>		
<p>4 (concerning correspondence sent to HTA Assessors)</p>	<p>As per our response to you on Thursday 7 September 2023, no correspondence has been sent to HTA Independent Assessors about the need to inform the police of any suspicions about potentially illegal organ transplants.</p> <p>A Regulatory Update sent to Independent Assessors is available on our website using this link: Independent assessors update July 2023.docx (live.com).</p>	

We would be grateful if you could let us know whether you wish to request sight of any of the documents listed in the summary. We do expect that exemptions will apply to some of the information.

You have a right to contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) if you have a complaint regarding our response in any way. Contact details can be found at www.ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

