

By email to: [REDACTED]

Human Tissue Authority

2nd Floor
2 Redman Place
London
E20 1JQ

Tel 020 7269 1900

Web www.hta.gov.uk

Email enquiries@hta.gov.uk

Date: 28 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

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 Tuesday 11 January 2022. Your email outlined the following request:

“Dear HTA, Based on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following information: 1. In England (and the UK), where is the human amniotic membrane sourced from (NHSBT, other companies etc)? 2. How many NHS centres hold a tissue license to store human amniotic membrane? 3. How many women donate human amniotic membrane each year (in average) in England (and the UK)?”

Clarification

On 4 February 2022 you provided the following clarification about your request for information:

“Dear HTA team,

I have clarified my previous request as requested by HTA. This updated request is based on the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. After human amniotic membrane is harvested from the donor, for which diseases/viruses/bacteria does the tissue need to be screened for before released for use?
2. How long does it take from human amniotic membrane harvest/removal to release for human use?
3. How many scheduled procedures are there to remove human amniotic membrane each year (2015-2021)?

4. How many centres hold a tissue license to store human amniotic membrane on their premisses?"

Response

1. After human amniotic membrane is harvested from the donor, for which diseases/viruses/bacteria does the tissue need to be screened for before released for use?

Under the Human Tissue (Quality and Safety for Human Application) Regulations 2007 (as amended) (the Regulations), donors of amniotic membranes must be screened for the following infectious diseases: HIV 1 and 2, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis and HTLV-1.

The Regulations do not specify which microorganisms the tissue itself must be screened for.

2. How long does it take from human amniotic membrane harvest/removal to release for human use?

The HTA does not hold this information.

3. How many scheduled procedures are there to remove human amniotic membrane each year (2015-2021)?

The HTA does not hold data relating to procedures for the removal of amniotic membranes.

However, these are the numbers of amniotic membrane procurement events provided by HTA-licensed establishments that took place in each year.

Year	Procurement Events
2015-2016	0
2016-2017	60
2017-2018	114
2018-2019	87
2019-2020	38

Please note that data for 2021-2022 is not available yet as the data collection exercise is ongoing.

4. How many centres hold a tissue license to store human amniotic membrane on their premisses [sic]?

Eighteen establishments hold HTA licences for the storage of amniotic membrane for human application.

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

