

By email to: [REDACTED]

Human Tissue Authority

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London
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Email enquiries@hta.gov.uk

Date: 26th November 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act

Thank you for your email into the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) dated 29 October 2025 for which we gave the case reference number: [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**"):

Hello,

We are conducting desktop research on biobanking in the UK. Are you able to provide the number of human tissue samples stored collectively at HTA licensed establishments. We are trying to understand how many clinical samples are stored in the UK at NHS/Academic tissue banks. Any assistance in this would be extremely helpful.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Response

For the human application sector, as of 31/12/2024, a total of 1,441,028 samples were stored at HTA-licensed establishments.

This figure reflects the number of discrete units in storage on the date specified; the HTA does not hold more recent data. The number of individual donors may be lower than this as multiple units may be derived from a single donation event. In addition,

some of the units currently in storage may be awaiting disposal as they are no longer required, or no longer suitable, for human application.

The figure above is based on data submitted annually by licensed establishments in the human application sector and has not been independently verified by the HTA.

Please note that under the Human Tissue (Quality and Safety for Human Application) Regulations 2007 (as amended) a HTA licence is not needed for all storage activity relating to the human application of human tissues and cells. Such storage is not included in the figure above.

We do not hold information to provide you with the number of human tissue samples currently stored in the UK for research purposes.

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