

By email to: [REDACTED]

Human Tissue Authority

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2 Redman Place
London
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Tel 020 7269 1900
Web [www.hta.gov.uk](http://www.human-tissue-authority.gov.uk)
Email enquiries@hta.gov.uk

Date: 10 October 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your email to the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) dated 15 September 2025, for which we gave the case reference number: [REDACTED]

As requested, 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"):

1. *"Please could you provide details of any prosecution against Circle Health Group Limited (including their former name BMI Healthcare) under the Human Tissue Act, in addition to the following fine:
<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/news/west-mercianews/2023/october/hospital-group-fined-100k-for-illegal-storage-of-human-tissue/>*
2. *Please could you provide any and all correspondence between the Human Tissue Authority and Circle Health Group Limited (including their former name BMI Healthcare)"*

To help us deal with your request, specifically item 1, we asked for further clarification. You responded on 26 September 2025 and asked for 'correspondence relating to the matter that led to this action against Circle Health.' You clarified further that, 'This would include correspondence in relation to the surgeon in question, correspondence on the matter with Circle Health Group Limited (or the name they were known under at the time), and internal correspondence within the Human Tissue Authority about the matter. To clarify, this would not include any correspondence on the background of the matter unrelated to the action, such as any applications for or granting of licenses [sic].'

Response

Request item 1

Please be aware that the HTA does not take forward prosecutions.

The HTA's policy is to refer potential breaches of human tissue legislation to the appropriate police force for investigation, where this is indicated.

The HTA referred the case you have referenced to the police in 2020. Following the police investigation, the Crown Prosecution Service authorised West Mercia Police to charge the group in April 2023.

Please see the details we published on our website on 23 October 2023: [UK conviction for Human Tissue Act offence | Human Tissue Authority](https://www.human-tissue-authority.gov.uk/news/uk-conviction-human-tissue-act-offence) (<https://www.hta.gov.uk/news/uk-conviction-human-tissue-act-offence>).

Request item 2

Using search terms and applying a search timeframe from the scope of your request, a system search identified 1176 items.

With reference to [The Freedom of Information and Data Protection \(Appropriate Limit and Fees\) Regulations 2004 SI 2004 No.3244](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukssi/2004/3244/contents/made) (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukssi/2004/3244/contents/made>) (the 'Fees Regulations') - which are created under Section 12(5) of the FOIA - and guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office, we have calculated the cost of complying with the request to exceed the £450 cost limit. As a reasonable estimate, we have allocated five minutes to each search result for a member of staff to carry out the permitted activities set out in the Fees Regulations in complying with your request. Using the recommended labour cost of £25 per hour, we have estimated the cost of complying with your request to be £2450. This is the calculation:

$$(1176 \times 5/60) \times £25 = £2450$$

Accordingly, we refuse this request under section 12 of the FOIA because compliance would exceed the appropriate cost limit.

Further information

We hope you found the 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