

Human Tissue Authority
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SZ

[redacted]

[redacted]

Tel 020 7269 1960
Web www.hta.gov.uk
Email [redacted]

Date 6 May 2014

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 8 April 2014. Your email outlined the following request:

“I am writing to you today to request the following information from you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The information I would like is as follows:

1. A copy of the most recent mortuary inspection report on the Fryatt Hospital Harwich. The address of which is 419 Main Road, Harwich, Essex, CO12 4EX.
2. The number of times in the last 3 years in which this hospital has reported to you a reportable incident under your HTARI system along with a brief description of the incident.
3. A copy of any guidance/advice/best practice notes you give to Mortuary/patient liaison officers staff on recommending local funeral directors to relatives.

I look forward to hearing from you in the usual time frame. If you can reply to me at this email address I shall be most grateful.”

Response

1. “A copy of the most recent mortuary inspection report on the Fryatt Hospital Harwich. The address of which is 419 Main Road, Harwich, Essex, CO12 4EX.”

Fryatt Hospital is not licensed by the HTA. We have contacted Fryatt Hospital, which has confirmed that it does not have a mortuary. We have been informed that patients who die at the hospital are transferred to Colchester General Hospital for storage and, where required, post mortem examination, prior to being released to their family's chosen funeral director.

2. "The number of times in the last 3 years in which this hospital has reported to you a reportable incident under your HTARI system along with a brief description of the incident."

As explained above, we do not licence Fryatt Hospital and so they are not required to report HTA Reportable Incidents (HTARIs). Therefore, we have not received any HTARI (previously known as Serious Untoward Incidents) notifications from them.

3. "A copy of any guidance/advice/best practice notes you give to Mortuary/patient liaison officers staff on recommending local funeral directors to relatives."

Funeral directors do not store or use relevant material for a scheduled purpose under the Human Tissue Act and fall outside the scope of our regulatory remit. We do not provide any guidance or advice on recommending or choosing a funeral director, nor do we comment on best practice in this regard.

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 or complaint, you have the right to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision, at the address below:

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

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

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