

Human Tissue Authority  
151 Buckingham Palace Road  
Victoria  
London  
SW1W 9SZ

██████████  
  
By email to ██████████

**Tel** 020 7269 1900  
**Web** [www.hta.gov.uk](http://www.hta.gov.uk)  
**Date** 16 July 2014

Dear ██████████

### **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) by email on 3 July 2014.

Your email outlined the following request:

“I would like to know the number of total donations for:

1. Organs (All HTA licensed facilities combined)
2. Bone marrow and PBSC donations (All HTA licensed facilities combined)
3. Other Tissues (All HTA licensed facilities combined)

In the year 2011, 2012, or 2013.”

### **Response**

#### Question 1

We do not hold data on the number of organs which are donated each calendar year. This information is held by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), which submits annual activity data reports for organ donations to Europe. The Council of Europe and Organizacion Nacional de Trasplantes (ONT) publish these annual activity reports alongside those of other European countries in organ donation and transplantation reports every calendar year, which

can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.ont.es/publicaciones/Paginas/Publicaciones.aspx>.

We would advise you to contact NHSBT for any further information about this data which is not contained at the aforementioned link.

### Questions 2 and 3

The HTA licences establishments in the human application sector to undertake the activity of 'procurement' under the Human Tissue (Quality and Safety for Human Application) Regulations 2007. The HTA requests procurement data numbers from establishments who are licensed in the [human application](#) sector as annual activity data at the end of every calendar year. The guidance issued to establishments in the 2013 annual activity data request described procurement as the following:

*"The physical act of removing tissues and cells from living or deceased human donors within the UK.*

*Procurement describes the **actual retrieval** of tissues or cells from living or deceased human patients within the UK, carried out **under your licence** by your own establishment or an unlicensed third party on your behalf under a Third Party Agreement (TPA).*

*This includes autologous donations as well as allogeneic donation. **It does not include units that have been retrieved from a donor under a different HTA licence to yours, or any procurement which took place outside of the UK.***

*Procurement includes units which will be used as starting material because the procurement and testing of tissues and cells for use as a starting material in ATMPs or IMPs falls under the remit of the HTA.*

***Any tissues and cells used as an autologous graft within the same surgical procedure** (i.e. those that are removed and transplanted back in to the same individual without being subjected to any banking or processing outside theatre) are excluded from the Human Tissue (Quality and Safety for Human Application) Regulations 2007, and therefore **are not reportable**.*

***To confirm, procurement as a licensable activity is not:***

*a) Receipt of tissues and cells for processing or other use when these have been procured from a donor by another licensed establishment.*

*b) Obtaining material from outside the UK. This activity is classed as either 'distributed to you' when units are received from another accredited establishment within the EEA, or 'import' when it is obtained from outside the EEA. Tissue procured outside the EEA, including when it is on behalf of the establishment, should be reported as 'imported' not 'procured'.*

*c) Purchase of tissue and cell based material from another supplier or tissue establishment.”*

Not all tissues and cells that are ‘procured’ are necessarily ‘donated’. The HTA does not collect data on the number of tissues and cells which have been ‘donated’ each calendar year, but the ‘procurement’ data is the closest to ‘donation’ data we collect and hold.

The HTA then report the data to EURO CET, who in turn publish the information on their website at the following link: <http://www.eurocet.org/>.

To access the data tables, please select the ‘Data’ option on the left hand side of the welcome screen, then see the sections ‘Tissue donation and transplant activity’ and ‘Cell donation, transplant and banking activity performed in the Countries’, where you will find the data for 2011 and 2012 in addition to previous years.

You will note that ‘donation’ numbers for the UK are all ‘0’; as explained above, we do not collect this data and inform EURO CET accordingly every year.

EURO CET has not yet published Europe-wide annual activity data for 2013. We anticipate this will be published over the next few months, but in the meantime we are happy to provide our procurement data for 2013 in the table below:

<b>Row Labels</b>	<b>Procured under your licence from a donor</b>
Acellular bone chips	0
Adipose Tissue	3
All other tissues or cells	21410
Amniotic membrane	60
Bone	2738
Bone marrow (BM)	482
Cartilage and chondral tissue	218
Corneas	6602
Demineralized bone	770
Donor Lymphocyte Infusions (DLI)	382
Embryonic stem cells (hESCs)	N/A
Fibroblast and/or keratinocyte cells	13
Heart valves	1007
Hepatocytes	N/A
Iliac Vessels	240
Limbal Stem Cells (LSCs)	6
Other blood cells	10
Other ocular tissues	0
Other skeletal tissues	3371
Other vessels	141

Ovarian and testicular tissues	8
Pancreatic Islets	1
Peripheral Blood Stem Cells (PBSCs)	6678
Sclera	2589
Tendons and ligaments	352
Umbilical cord blood	21406
Umbilical cord blood tissue	3203
Whole skin	275
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>71965</b>

### 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. 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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

██████████  
████████████████████  
████████████████████