

Human Tissue Authority
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SZ

[REDACTED]

By email to [REDACTED]

Tel 020 7269 1900

Web www.hta.gov.uk

Date 29 May 2015

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 13 May 2015. Your email outlined the following request:

"I have been made aware of a recent incident at the A and E department at St Mary's Hospital, Imperial College NHS Trust, where a baby's embryo during a miscarriage was accidentally disposed of by a member of staff, contrary to accepted procedures and resulted in investigations and reports.

Those at the department and yourselves will be fully aware of the relevant incident and my freedom of information request is for:

- *A copy of any relevant official reports, investigations, assessments (or such like similar descriptions) that were undertaken, written alerting of this incident that are in the HTA's systems*
- *A copy of any relevant official reports, investigations, assessments (or such like similar descriptions) that were undertaken, written after this incident that are in the HTA's systems*
- *Any other relevant emails discussing and pertaining to it"*

Response

St Mary's Hospital is licensed by the HTA to undertake licensable activities in the Post Mortem sector (licensing number 12553). We have conducted a thorough search of our licensing systems and have found no record of the incident you have described.

By way of background the HTA investigates incidents that take place in premises licensed by the HTA that fall into at least one of 16 classifications, which include the following in relation to pregnancy remains:

- 'Disposal or retention of a whole fetus or fetal tissue (gestational age greater than 24 weeks) against the express wishes of the family';
- 'Disposal or retention of a whole fetus or fetal tissue (gestational age less than 24 weeks) against the express wishes of the family'.

From the description you have provided it is not clear that the incident you referred to should have been reported to us.

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

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

