

Human Tissue Authority  
151 Buckingham Palace Road  
London  
SW1W 9SZ

By email to [REDACTED]

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

**Date** 4 June 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) received by email on 29 May 2015.

You initially contacted the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) on 13 May 2015 to request information the HTA held about *“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”*.

We responded to this request stating that a thorough search of our licensing systems found no record of the incident described and that, from the description you provided, it was not clear that the incident you referred to should have been reported to us.

You responded with the following further request under the FOIA, which we received by email on 29 May 2015:

*“I have been made aware of an incident at the Imperial College NHS Trust, after 2011, where a baby’s embryo during a miscarriage was accidentally disposed of by a member of a staff, contrary to accepted procedures and resulted in investigations and reports.*

*Please provide:*

- *Copies of any relevant official reports, investigations, assessments (or such like) that have been undertaken, written alerting of any such similar incidents from this Trust*
- *Copies of any relevant official reports, investigations, assessments that were undertaken, written after any such incidents, that are in the HTA’s systems*
- *Any relevant e mails discussing and pertaining to any such incidents, from this Trust.”*

### **Response**

We have conducted a thorough search of our licensing systems and St Mary’s Hospital is the only hospital within Imperial College NHS Trust that holds a post mortem sector licence.

As our previous response stated, we have no record of St Mary's Hospital reporting the incident you describe.

**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)

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

