

Human Tissue Authority
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SZ

Tel 020 7269 1946

Email [REDACTED]

Web www.hta.gov.uk

Date 23 December 2016

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

HTA Reportable Incident (HTARI) CAS-36621-Y1S2

Thank you for submitting the HTARI notification and sending the follow up report. I have reviewed this information and write to inform you that our consideration of this incident has now concluded.

To recap on the incident: after carrying out an audit, you discovered that blocks and slides taken during a post-mortem examination were still being stored, when they should have been returned to the next of kin. The [REDACTED] of the deceased, [REDACTED], was informed and arrangements were made for the blocks and slides to be returned to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] contacted the HTA about this matter and then made a formal complaint to [REDACTED].

I understand that the root cause of the incident was human error, a contributory factor being the arrangement at the time whereby the management of the blocks and slides was the responsibility of a single person.

In order to mitigate the risk of a similar incident happening again, you will now:

- store all blocks and slides in the mortuary;
- cassette tissue in the mortuary before transfer to the lab to remove the need for storage of wet tissue samples; and
- keep all paperwork relating to tissue management in the mortuary.

In addition, you have implemented the following:

- a tissue management system for the mortuary;
- training for all mortuary staff in tissue management with training records and competency checks;
- twice-weekly checks on blocks and slides that returned from the lab; and
- regular audits of storage of tissue blocks and slides.

If you have not already done so, please include in your tissue management system, a process for recording the movement of tissue from the mortuary to the laboratory and its subsequent return.

I will be writing to [REDACTED] to inform him that you have undertaken an investigation and taken appropriate steps as a result of your findings. I understand that you will also be writing to [REDACTED] in response to his formal complaint, to apologise for the error and to assure him that you have taken appropriate steps to mitigate the risk of future incident.

In light of the above, I have now closed this HTARI on our system and will not need any further information from you.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]