

Human Tissue Authority

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Date 30 June 2016

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 June 2016. Your email outlined the following request:

Please advise in relation to the 5 years between January 2011 and December 2015 inclusive:

- 1) *How many compromise agreements has HTA entered into with staff or former staff? Please include all COT3 agreements in this figure.*
- 2) *How many of these compromise agreements require staff members not to disclose the existence of the compromise agreement itself?*
- 3) *How many of these compromise agreements contain non-disparagement clauses that require staff members not to criticise HTA or its employees?*
- 4) *How many of these compromise agreements were entered into by HRA with staff who had previously made public interest disclosures, (whether or not these were raised by formally invoking HTA's whistleblowing policy)?*
- 5) *If staff who have entered into a compromise agreement with HTA were to voice concerns about reprisal by HTA for whistleblowing, would HTA consider this to be an actionable breach of non-disparagement clauses, or would it consider the raising of such concerns to be qualifying disclosures under PIDA?*

Response

The HTA has not entered into any compromise agreements with staff or former staff between January 2011 and December 2015. Therefore, in response to questions 1 to 4 above, the answer is zero.

In response to question 5, we are unable to answer as this information is not held by the HTA.

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

[Redacted signature block]