

Human Tissue Authority
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██████████
By email to ██████████

Tel 020 7269 1900
Web www.hta.gov.uk
Web www.hta.gov.uk
Email enquiries@hta.gov.uk
Date 1 October 2018

Dear ██████████

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your email, which was received by the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) on 18 September 2018. Your email contained the following question, which we are treating as a further Freedom of Information (FOI) request:

Hi ██████████

I have already read that document, I wanted the data you've collated to say deceased patients should be frozen at -16 to -20.

You must have done tests to say a patients decomposition is significantly slowed down at -16 rather than -5.

And what is the difference between the temperatures, because I thought anyone below freezing point (0 degrees) was frozen.

Myself and the rest of the APT's in our various mortuaries are struggling with these temperatures set by the HTA, some mortuaries don't have the funding for blowers to drop temperatures to this magnitude.

We would like hard facts on this subject.

Regards

Response

The HTA does not hold data in relation to the decomposition rates of bodies at different reduced temperatures.

As outlined in our letter to you on 3 September 2018, the expert members of the Histopathology Working Group (HWG) were consulted when the HTA's revised codes and standards were being developed and went out for public consultation.

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

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and name of the Information Commissioner. Below it, another black rectangular redaction box covers the name of the sender, likely a member of the HTA staff.