

[REDACTED]

By email to [REDACTED]

**Tel** 020 7269 1900  
**Web** [www.hta.gov.uk](http://www.hta.gov.uk)  
**Email** [enquiries@hta.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hta.gov.uk)  
**Date** 26 March 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

### 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 9 March 2018. Your email outlined the following request:

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible.

I would like to request the following information:

1. During the calendar year of 2017, how many of the following organs have organizations that you license and inspect received? I would like a total tally of Living and Deceased donations.

- a. Hearts
- b. Kidneys
- c. Eyeballs
- d. Brains

2. During the calendar year of 2017, how much (in weight) human tissue did the organizations that you license and inspect receive?

I would like to receive the information in by e-mail. If one part of the request can be answered sooner than the others, please send that information first followed by any subsequent data. If you need further clarification, please contact me by [REDACTED]

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all non-exempt material.

I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request. I look forward to your response within 20 working days, as outlined by statute.

## **Response**

The HTA is an independent regulator created to regulate the removal, storage and use of human tissue for research, medical treatment, post-mortem examination, education and training, and display in public. We also give approval for organ and bone marrow donations from living people.

We license and inspect 36 establishments across the UK that undertake transplantation of solid organs.

### Question 1

The HTA does not hold information about the number of organs each licensed establishment receives. The number each establishment receives will not necessarily be the same as the number it transplants, as some organs will not be accepted for transplantation once they have been checked by the relevant Surgeon.

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is the organisation in the UK responsible for maintaining the NHS Organ Donor Register and National Transplant Register. They also undertake the matching and allocation of all organs. Comprehensive information and statistics are available in the NHSBT [Organ Donation and Transplantation Activity Report 2016/17](#). This confirms that the number of heart transplants in the UK during the 2016/17 year was 198, 2338 kidney transplants took place from deceased donors and 1009 kidney transplants from living donors.

In the UK, corneal transplants are undertaken but not transplantation of whole eyeballs. Similarly, no brains are retrieved or used for the purpose of transplantation but can be donated for other purposes such as medical research.

### Question two

The HTA does not hold any data on how much (in weight) human tissue the organisations that we licence and inspect in the organ donation and transplantation sector receive.

## 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.

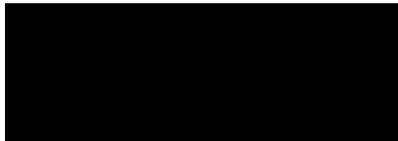
If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have the right to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision, at the address below. There is no charge for making an appeal.

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)

Yours sincerely

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