

Human Tissue Authority
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London
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Tel 020 7269 1900
Web www.hta.gov.uk
Email enquiries@hta.gov.uk
Date 1 November 2018

By email to [REDACTED]

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 22 October 2018. Your email outlined the following request:

Dear Sir or Madam,

the HTA regulates organs coming into the UK from outside the EU for transplant, as below:

- Where an organ is sent to, or received from, a country which is not in the European Union, the HTA directs that licence holders (establishments we regulate) must ensure that [traceability requirements](#) are complied with. Any identification system must ensure that organs can be traced from the donor to the recipient.
- The HTA also directs that any organs sent to, or received from, a country which is not in the EU meet the quality and safety standards that are equivalent to those required by the Quality and Safety of Organs Intended for Transplantation Regulations 2012 and the [framework document](#).

Essentially, the HTA directs that traceability requirements are complied with, and that quality and safety standards are met. The management of the organs from import to transplantation is carried out by NHSBT.

I am applying under the FOI Act for a log of all organs imported to the UK for transplantation at the private [REDACTED] Hospital for each calendar year from 2015-16-17-18 to date. Please supply the type of organ, and the country of origin.

I look forward to hearing back from you within 20 working days.

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.

The HTA does not hold information about the number of organs imported into each licensed establishment. 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 the exchange of organs between the UK and other countries. 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 2017/18](#).

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

