

Human Tissue Authority
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SZ

By email to [REDACTED]

Tel 020 7269 1900
Web www.hta.gov.uk
Email enquiries@hta.gov.uk
Date 13 September 2017

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 7 September 2017. Your email outlined the following request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

To ask the Human Tissue Authority, in light of its advice to hospitals and clinics regarding the disposal of pregnancy remains and in light of the fact that storing multiple pregnancy remains in one receptacle is often the default position in hospitals, to provide a description of an appropriate receptacle used to store multiple pregnancy remains and a photograph of such a receptacle.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under your Section 16 obligations, as to how I can refine my request to be included in the scope of the Act.

I look forward to your response within 20 working days, as stipulated by the Act. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email and I will be happy to clarify what I am asking for.

Response

In accordance with s.1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), I can confirm that the HTA does not hold the information specified within your request.

The role of the HTA is to ensure that human tissue is used safely and ethically, and with proper consent. Through licensing, the HTA regulates the removal, storage and use of human tissue. You can find information about our role and the legislation which governs our work on our [website](#).

The HTA has produced guidance for the disposal of pregnancy remains. This guidance is used in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and can be downloaded from the HTA website [here](#). I have attached a copy of this document for ease of reference.

You may also wish to refer to a page on the HTA's website which addresses frequent asked question about the disposal of pregnancy remains, which can be found [here](#). As you will see, we do not give specific guidance on the nature of any receptacle to be used.

Additional guidance is also available from the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity Sands [here](#) and the Royal College of Nursing [here](#). Different guidance applies in Scotland, which can be found [here](#).

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

