

By email to: [REDACTED]

Human Tissue Authority

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Email enquiries@hta.gov.uk

Date: 09 December 2021

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 15 November 2021. Your email outlined the following request:

“I was very distressed to see the following article in the Times today - <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/095e7d2a-44d2-11ec-b414-b1f6389ab345?...> Cignpost Diagnostics is clearly in breach of the HTA 2004. Please can you confirm if Cignpost Diagnostics has applied for a licence or if the HTA will be investigating its conduct”.

Response

The HTA received your enquiry on 15 November 2021. The HTA wrote to you on 18 November to inform you that your enquiry would be dealt with under the FOIA.

In considering your enquiry, we have treated the first part of your enquiry as a request for information under the FOIA. The first part of your enquiry was “Please can you confirm if Cignpost Diagnostics has applied for a licence”

Cignpost Diagnostics has not applied for a licence.

We have noted that the second part of your enquiry does not constitute a request for information under the FOIA; as such, we have answered it as we would any other enquiry. This information is below:

The HTA's aim is to make sure that the statutory requirements of The Human Tissue Act 2004, The Human Tissue [Quality and Safety for Human Application] Regulations 2007 (as amended) and The Quality and Safety of Organs Intended for Transplantation Regulations 2012 (as amended) are met. The HTA does this by setting standards that are clear and reasonable and in which professionals and the public can have confidence. The HTA has also published HTA Directions and codes of practice.

Although the HTA does not have any statutory powers to investigate allegations or complaints, we will consider undertaking investigations where matters that are potentially within our regulatory remit are raised with us.

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, 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.org.uk

Yours sincerely

