

Human Tissue Authority  
151 Buckingham Palace Road  
London  
SW1W 9SZ

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** 22 August 2019

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 6 August 2019. Your email outlined the following request:

Under the freedom of information act, please supply the following information, working through 1, 2 and then 3. Please advise if there is likely to be a cost overrun, or provide any necessary assistance as to how the request may be reformulated to cover information that you hold. Should there be the risk of a cost overrun, please provide necessary assistance as outlined in FOI guidance/legislation, such that the request may be reformulated. Thank you for your assistance.

- 1) The numbers of HTA Reportable incidents (HTARIS) reported by London post mortem establishments in 2018 under the category "release of the wrong body" in 2018
- 2) The number of HTA Reportable incidents reported by London post mortem establishments under the category "release of the wrong body" in 2019 to date.
- 3) Copies of the relevant HTARI reports that were submitted pertaining to (1) and (2) (I note that in the past you have not previously released reports in full and would therefore expect as much information as is possible to be released about the incidents referenced in (1) and (2).

## Response

Details of HTA Reportable Incident (HTARI) cases are set out in the table below. These are HTARI cases reported in 2018 and 2019 (up to 6 August 2019) by establishments in London, where the case has been closed on our systems and the incident was determined by the HTA to be a HTARI in the category 'release of the wrong body'.

Please be advised that we have considered "London post mortem establishments" to be HTA-licensed establishments with a Greater London Authority postcode.

Please note that the information relating to the case reported in January 2018 was released under a previous FOIA request:

[https://www.hta.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Freedom%20of%20Information%20Request%20Response%20Letter\\_1.pdf](https://www.hta.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Freedom%20of%20Information%20Request%20Response%20Letter_1.pdf).

The HTA does hold HTARI reports submitted to the HTA but we have formed the view that provision of such reports in their entirety and/or original format is exempt from disclosure by virtue of section 31 (1) (g) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It is the HTA's policy that disclosing these reports in full would prejudice the exercise by the Authority of its functions for certain specified purposes. Those specified purposes include the purpose of "ascertaining whether circumstances which would justify regulatory action in pursuance of any enactment exist or may arise". The HTA's functions, which are set out in general terms at section 15 of the Human Tissue Act 2004, include superintending compliance with requirements under Part 1 of the Act and with Codes of Practice made under the Act.

Establishment	Date HTARI was reported	Incident classification	Brief summary of HTARI
St George's Hospital	Jan-2018	Release of the wrong body	Human error led to the short term release of a wrong body
St George's Hospital	Mar-2019	Release of the wrong body	Human error led to the release of the wrong body

## 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)

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