

Licence application assessment report on compliance with HTA licensing standards
 Assessment dates: **11 March (remote) and 18 March (site visit) 2025**



Ortho Surgical Skills Centre
 Proposed HTA licensing number 12799

Application for a licence under the Human Tissue Act 2004

Activities

Premises/area	Carrying out of an anatomical examination	Removal from the body of a deceased person (otherwise than in the course of an anatomical examination or post mortem examination) of relevant material of which the body consists or which it contains, for use for a scheduled purpose other than transplantation	Storage of a body of a deceased person or relevant material which has come from a human body for use for a scheduled purpose	Storage of an anatomical specimen
Ortho Surgical Skills Centre	Application made	Application made	Application made	Application made

Summary of assessment findings

The HTA found the proposed Designated Individual (DI) and the proposed Licence Holder (LH) to be suitable in accordance with the requirements of the legislation.

Although the HTA found that Ortho Surgical Skills Centre ('the establishment') had met the majority of the HTA's standards, one minor shortfall was found against standards for Governance and quality systems. This shortfall related to staff training records.

The HTA has assessed the establishment as suitable to be licensed for the activities specified, subject to corrective and preventative actions being implemented to meet the shortfalls identified during the assessment.

Compliance with HTA standards

All applicable HTA standards have been assessed as fully met.

Minor Shortfalls

Standard	Assessment findings	Level of shortfall
GQ3 Staff are appropriately qualified and trained in techniques relevant to their work and are continuously updating their skills.		
a) Qualifications of staff and all training are recorded, records showing attendance at training.	<p>The establishment did not have staff training records available for inspection. There was no documented evidence of staff attendance at relevant training sessions.</p> <p><i>The establishment submitted sufficient evidence to address this shortfall before the report was finalised</i></p>	Minor

Proposed DI and proposed CLH/LH suitability

Advice

The HTA advises the proposed DI to consider the following to further improve practices:

Number	Standard	Advice
1.	GQ1(b)	The establishment has several standard operating procedures (SOPs), with the current review period set to one year. As the establishment is newly operational, some SOPs may require review sooner or more frequently than the annual timeline. The proposed DI is advised to ensure that the next review date is clearly documented within each SOP.

Background

Ortho Surgical Skills Centre is a facility that provides surgical training and education. The establishment will receive body parts under an agreement from the National Repository Centre at Nottingham.

Description of activities undertaken

The HTA's regulatory requirements are set out in Appendix 1. The Regulation Manager covered the following areas during the desk-based assessment and site visit:

Standards assessed against during assessment

40 out of 47 HTA licensing standards were covered during the assessment (standards published 3 April 2017). Some standards relating to consent procedures (C1(a), C1(d), C1(e), and C1(f)) and standards relating to consent training (C2(a), C2(b) and C2(c)) were not applicable as the establishment does not directly seek consent from donors.

Review of governance documentation

Policies and procedural documents relating to all licensed activities, including standard operating procedures and traceability systems were assessed. Documents detailing adverse events, incidents, risk assessment, governance meetings, agreements with the establishments providing donated material and audits were also reviewed.

Visual inspection

The inspection included a visual examination of the training suite, including the areas designated for the receipt of body parts by staff and the spaces allocated for the storage and use of relevant material for training purposes.

Meetings with establishment staff

The inspection included discussions with the proposed Corporate Licence Holder contact, proposed DI, Directors, Marketing Manager, Laboratory Operations Coordinator, HR Manager and one person who will be Person Designated (PD).

Report sent to proposed DI for factual accuracy: 28 March 2025

Report returned from proposed DI: 28 March 2025

Final report issued: 28 March 2025

Appendix 1: The HTA's regulatory requirements

Prior to the grant of a licence, the HTA must assure itself that the DI is a suitable person to supervise the activity authorised by the licence and that the premises are suitable for the activity.

The statutory duties of the DI are set down in Section 18 of the Human Tissue Act 2004. They are to secure that:

- the other persons to whom the licence applies are suitable persons to participate in the carrying-on of the licensed activity;
- suitable practices are used in the course of carrying on that activity, and;
- the conditions of the licence are complied with.

Its programme of inspections to assess compliance with HTA licensing standards is one of the assurance mechanisms used by the HTA.

The HTA developed its licensing standards with input from its stakeholders. They are designed to ensure the safe and ethical use of human tissue and the dignified and respectful treatment of the deceased. They are grouped under four headings:

- consent;
- governance and quality systems;
- traceability;
- premises facilities and equipment.

This is an exception-based report: only those standards that have been assessed as not met are included. Where the HTA determines that there has been a shortfall against a standard, the level of the shortfall is classified as 'Critical', 'Major' or 'Minor' (see Appendix 2: Classification of the level of shortfall). Where HTA standards are fully met, but the HTA has identified an area of practice that could be further improved, advice is provided.

HTA inspection reports are published on the HTA's website.

Appendix 2: Classification of the level of shortfall

Where the HTA determines that a licensing standard is not met, the improvements required will be stated and the level of the shortfall will be classified as 'Critical', 'Major' or 'Minor'. Where the HTA is not presented with evidence that an establishment meets the requirements of an expected standard, it works on the premise that a lack of evidence indicates a shortfall.

The action an establishment will be required to make following the identification of a shortfall is based on the HTA's assessment of risk of harm and/or a breach of the Human Tissue Act 2004 (HT Act) or associated Directions.

1. Critical shortfall:

A shortfall which poses a significant risk to human safety and/or dignity or is a breach of the HT Act or associated Directions

or

A combination of several major shortfalls, none of which is critical on its own, but which together could constitute a critical shortfall and should be explained and reported as such.

A critical shortfall may result in one or more of the following:

- A notice of proposal being issued to revoke the licence;
- Some or all of the licensable activity at the establishment ceasing with immediate effect until a corrective action plan is developed, agreed by the HTA and implemented;
- A notice of suspension of licensable activities;
- Additional conditions being proposed, or;
- Directions being issued requiring specific action to be taken straightaway.

2. Major shortfall:

A non-critical shortfall that:

- poses a risk to human safety and/or dignity, or;
- indicates a failure to carry out satisfactory procedures, or;
- indicates a breach of the relevant Codes of Practice, the HT Act and other relevant professional and statutory guidelines, or;

- has the potential to become a critical shortfall unless addressed.

or

A combination of several minor shortfalls, none of which is major on its own, but which, together, could constitute a major shortfall and should be explained and reported as such.

In response to a major shortfall, an establishment is expected to implement corrective and preventative actions within 1-2 months of the issue of the final inspection report. Major shortfalls pose a higher level of risk and therefore a shorter deadline is given, compared to minor shortfalls, to ensure the level of risk is reduced in an appropriate timeframe.

3. Minor shortfall:

A shortfall which cannot be classified as either critical or major, but which indicates a departure from expected standards.

This category of shortfall requires the development of a corrective action plan, the results of which will usually be assessed by the HTA either by desk based review or at the time of the next site visit.

In response to a minor shortfall, an establishment is expected to implement corrective and preventative actions within 3-4 months of the issue of the final inspection report.

Follow up actions

A template corrective and preventative action plan will be sent as a separate Word document with the final inspection report. Establishments must complete this template and return it to the HTA within 14 days of the issue of the final report.

Based on the level of the shortfall, the HTA will consider the most suitable type of follow-up of the completion of the corrective and preventative action plan. This may include a combination of

- a follow-up inspection;
- a request for information that shows completion of actions;
- monitoring of the action plan completion, or;
- follow up at next routine inspection.

After an assessment of the proposed action plan establishments will be notified of the follow-up approach the HTA will take.