



Freedom of Information Team  
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Queen Alexandra Hospital  
Southwick Hill Road  
Portsmouth  
Hampshire  
PO6 3LY

Name:  
Email:  
Date: 18/05/2023  
Ref: 23-24 067

Dear

**RE: Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 27/04/2023. Please see responses to your requests below.

**I would like to request the following information:**

**For the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022:**

**How many post-mortem examinations were performed?**

Year	Post-mortem examinations undertaken
2019	<5
2020	<5
2021	0
2022	<5

The Trust conducted some consented post-mortems for the period above, however we are unable to provide precise figures when these are five or less due to the risk that individuals will be identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the Data Protection Act.

In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure.

Almost all, post-mortem examinations are performed by HM coroner; therefore, you may find that HM coroner services will be better able to assist you with this information. Please contact them directly via the email address below.

HM Coroner - [hampshirecoroners@hants.gov.uk](mailto:hampshirecoroners@hants.gov.uk)

**What was the average number of days between the time of death and the release of the body after a post-mortem examination?**

The average number of days between the time of death and the release of the body after a post-mortem examination was 13 days.

**How many pathologists worked in the trust (in WTE)?**

Post-mortems are performed by external pathologists who are employed by HM Coroner. One Histopathologist working for Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust conducts perinatal post-mortems, in addition to his primary role as a Consultant Histopathologist.

Please accept this letter as completion of your request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, please contact our Head of Information Governance on [Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk](mailto:Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk) or write to the above address and we will conduct an internal review. Upon review, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal our decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office; for more information, please visit the [ICO's website](#).

Please be aware, if we do not receive an appeal within 30 days of you receiving this letter, we will assume that you are satisfied with our response. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team