

Information Governance Manager
Room 2.03
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Tel: 023 9228 6000

Ref: 16-17 441

Date: 30 November 2016

Dear

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

- 1. Are you holding organs or tissue samples or bodies of fetuses that were miscarried, stillborn, aborted or of children up to one year old, pending disposal?**

Yes

- 2. If yes to qu 1, please report how many organs, tissue samples, body parts or bodies of fetuses that were miscarried, stillborn, aborted or of children up to one year old you have retained and still have?**

Currently as of 11.45 on 24/11/16 we have:

Mortuary

- 6 babies and 1 foetus papyraceous waiting to be collected for cremation/burial
- 52 cases of `retained products of conception` packed and ready for cremation which are 12 weeks old or longer.

Histology

- 96 cases of `retained products of conception` (RPOC) less than 12 weeks old. All RPOCs are kept for at least 12 weeks as per HTA guidelines to allow the mother to make a decision on how she wishes the tissue to be disposed of.
- Blocks and slides from 45 perinatal post mortems carried out over the last year have been retained where permission has been given by the mother.

3. **In how many of these cases of fetuses that were miscarried, stillborn or aborted or of children up to one year old which have been retained and you still have was consent given by the nearest relatives to take, use and dispose of organs or tissue samples or body parts or bodies?**

Mortuary – with all perinatal cases where a post mortem is required and tissue has been retained we have a consent form signed by the mother giving permission to take, examine/test organs or tissue samples. It also includes permission to return, retain or dispose of these samples or organs. The form is based on that provided by SANDS.

Histology - all retained products of conception are received with a signed Trust consent form (ref: B16C) to give permission to retain blocks and slides as part of the mother's medical record. The form also includes permission to send for cremation any remaining unprocessed tissue. The family are also given a choice of making their own arrangements for burial if they prefer.

4. **In how many of these cases of fetuses that were miscarried, stillborn or aborted or of children up to one year old which were retained but have since been disposed of was consent given by the nearest relatives to take, use and dispose of organs or tissue samples or body parts or bodies?**

All cases (see point 3.)

This letter also confirms completion of the request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you have any concerns regarding the response you have received, you may ask the Trust to conduct an internal review. For further information on the Freedom of Information Act, including details of appeals and complaints, please contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 08456 30 60 60

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Applicant Satisfaction Survey

It is important to the Trust that you are satisfied with the way in which your request was handled. There is an [Applicant Satisfaction Survey](#) available on our website and we would be grateful if you could spend a short time to comment on your request.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely

Abigail

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