

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I represent [REDACTED] I am currently carrying out some research into the post-mortem sector within NHS Trusts & public mortuaries located within the United Kingdom. (All of which will receive the same request.) The following questions are designed not to identify any single person/patient, nor are they intended to represent the opinion of your Trust/council. The following questions (if possible) are to be answered by all of the hospital mortuaries governed by your trust or public mortuaries that fall under your remit that actively take part in both coronial/hospital post mortems. Please provide answers in a simple numbered list format, and return to us via the email above. This FOI request is NOT being sent to NHS Trusts in the south-east of England; the FOI for this area was carried out November 2018.

If your Trust does not take part in any post mortem activity then please do let me know via reply.

This request is being sent to both NHS hospital Trust and Council governed public mortuaries. As such some questions will not be relevant to you. (Such questions have been noted in RED)

- 1.) What is the most amount of post mortem cases that you are able to carry out in a single post mortem session?

A1) 6

- 2.) How many hospital post mortem examinations did you undertake between 1st April 2018 – 1st April 2019?

A2) (NHS only) 2

- 3.) How many coronial post mortem examinations did you undertake between 1st April 2018 – 1st April 2019?

A3) 613

- 4.) What is the average number of hospital post mortem examinations that you have undertaken over the past 3 financial years?

A4) (NHS only) (Avg of PM's including secondary FY 2016/17 – 2018/19) 1

- 5.) What is the average number of coronial post mortem examinations that you have undertaken over the past 3 financial years?

A5) (Avg of PM's including secondary FY 2016/17 – 2018/19) 730

6.) How many brain & spinal cord donations have you carried out over within the mortuary over the past 3 financial years?

A6) 6

7.) How many members of staff do you employ within the mortuary? (This includes administration staff)

A7) 7

8.) What qualifications (In relation to mortuary activity) do your employees currently hold?

A8) 3 staff either Diploma or Level 3 Anatomical Pathology Technology

2 Staff trainee APTS' currently undergoing Level 3 qualification

1 Mortuary Support Worker

1 Mortuary Support Worker (vacancy)

9.) What NHS pay bands are your employees in? (NHS only)

A9) 4 x Band 3, 2 x band 5, 1 x band 8a

10.) What is your capacity for the storage of deceased?

A10) 212

11.) Does your mortuary charge undertakers/service users for storage of deceased? (Assuming that the deceased would remain in your care for an extended period of time once they have been released to go.)

A11) No

12.) If the answer to question 11 is yes, are the premises risk assessed and do they coincide with HTA regulations?

A12) not applicable

13.) Do you store deceased patients' offsite with non NHS service users? (NHS only)

A13) No

14.) Do you actively undertake increased risk post mortem work? (Blood borne)

A14) Yes

15.) Do you actively undertake increased risk post mortem work? (Air borne)

A15) Yes

If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

If the release of any of this information is prohibited on the grounds of breach of confidence, I ask that you supply me with copies of the confidentiality agreement and remind you that information should not be treated as confidential if such an agreement has not been signed.

I understand that you are required to respond to my request within the 20 working days after you receive this letter. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request.

I look forward to hearing from you.

FOI ref 227-1920