

Date: 09/08/2019

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/014942 – Post mortems

The following questions (if possible) are to be answered by all of the hospital mortuaries governed by your trust.

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?

- No set amounts can be given session times vary, on average anything between 1 and 8 post mortems per session.

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

- As per NHS Digital rules the Trust does not publish numbers lower than 5 as this could lead to the identification of the persons involved. Exemption Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act is applied. However as your request is asking for information relating to the deceased, and as patients are still owed a duty of confidence following death and the numbers are lower than 5; where the Trust's duty of confidentiality comes into conflict with its duty of disclosure its duty of confidentiality takes precedence.

3.) How many coronial post mortem examinations did you undertake between 1st April 2018 – 1st April 2019? - 416

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

- 6

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

- 1200

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

- As per NHS Digital rules the Trust does not publish numbers lower than 5 as this could lead to the identification of the persons involved. Exemption Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act is applied. However as your request is asking for information relating to the deceased, and as patients are still owed a duty of confidence following death and the numbers are lower than 5; where the Trust's duty of confidentiality comes into conflict with its duty of disclosure its duty of confidentiality takes precedence.

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

- 5

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

- all technicians are qualified Anatomical Pathology Technicians

9.) What NHS pay bands are your employees in? (NHS only) - band 3 – band 5

10.) What is your capacity for the storage of deceased? - 155

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.)

- No

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

- not applicable as answer to question 11 is 'No'

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

- No

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

- Only undertake when necessary

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

- Only undertake when necessary