

Date: 17/06/2015

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION request FOI/012271 – Disposal of pregnancy remains.**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information, regarding the disposal of pregnancy remains (all pregnancy losses prior to 24 weeks)

1) How many times pregnancy remains were incinerated with clinical waste in:

- 2012-3 - None
- 2013-4 - None
- 2014-5 - None

Where the pregnancy remains for the purpose of this question are defined as 'Products of Conception' submitted to histology.

2) How many “sensitive incinerations” of pregnancy remains (where the remains are packaged, stored and incinerated separately from other clinical waste) were carried out by the Trust in:

- 2012-2013 - 268 specs disposed respectfully
- 2013-2014 - 322 specs disposed respectfully
- 2014-2015 - 246 specs disposed respectfully

3) When a “sensitive incineration” is carried out, does the Trust have a policy on how the pregnancy remains are packaged before incineration (i.e. what receptacle are they placed in)? If so, could you provide me with details of that policy.

After completion of any histology reports POCs are retained for a period of 4 weeks adhering to guidance from RCPATH. POCs are packaged in individual carriers which are stored in a leakproof cover. The POC is identified with the laboratory accession number. The completed consent form is attached to the POC whilst in the laboratory but when auditing cases for sensitive disposal is removed to ensure confidentiality is maintained when the POC is sent for respectful incineration. All POCs are transported in isolation of any other specimen types.

4) For the total number of cases of incineration of pregnancy remains (whether non-sensitive, or sensitive), could you please provide a breakdown of how many parents:

- Specified they wanted the incineration to occur
- Expressed no desire to be involved in the decision
- Did not express an opinion on the incineration within the 12 week timescale
- Other

In each year.

The Trust does not keep this information in an electronic format, this information is only held in patients notes. All Products of conception are only accepted by histology if accompanied by a consent form that has been validated by the mother and the doctor/nurse, a copy is also retained on the patient record. Any products of conception that are received without a completed consent form are returned to the sender and then resubmitted when the consent form has been completed.

5) The number of official complaints the Trust has received related to any aspect of pregnancy remains disposal – whether incineration, sensitive incineration, cremation (shared or individual), burial (shared or individual), mother deciding to take remains home – at any stage pre, during or post disposal, in the years:

- 2012-3 - none
- 2013-4 - none
- 2014-5 - none

If you keep a record of the complaints, I'd very much like to see a sample.

NONE