

Date: Friday, 13th November 2020
Our Ref: MB/SH FOI 4528

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4528

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 09th November 2020.

Your request was as follows:

Please may you provide the number of consented adult autopsies performed within your trust in the year 2019?

Some comments to help clarify the request are included below. If any further clarification is required, or if I can assist you to provide a response to the request, please don't hesitate to contact me by email.

In addition to the clarifications below, please bear in mind that this request is about the year 2019 and is not a request that asks whether the trust currently performs autopsies; I do ask that the response specifically relate to the year 2019 and therefore a response to the effect 'our trust does not perform autopsies' does not answer this request.

An autopsy is an invasive examination of a deceased body, where organs are removed and inspected, typically by a pathologist. This does not include single-organ retrieval, for example, brain donation. It also does not include anatomical dissection/prosection performed only for the purposes of teaching healthcare students.

A consented autopsy (also known as a hospital autopsy) is an autopsy where the legal basis relied upon is consent, rather than the instruction of a coroner.

2019 refers to the date of the evisceration stage of the autopsy, rather than the date of death or the completion of the autopsy report.

'Adult' means where the deceased was 18 years or over at the time of death. Where your trust has changed its name within the year 2019, please include consented adult autopsies that took place within the trust under its previous name.

Where a case has been referred into to your trust for a consented autopsy by a different trust, please do include it. Where your trust has referred a case out to a different trust for a consented autopsy, please do not include it.

Where more than one trust has merged to form a single trust (e.g. where one trust has acquired another), please include all consented adult autopsies that took place within 2019 for all the trusts involved. Should a different trust have split and become part acquired by your trust and part acquired a different trust, please let me know so data is not duplicated.

Here at The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (WCFT) we had 2 consented adult autopsies performed in 2019 but these were performed at other NHS hospitals by WCFT pathology department. This is due to WCFT not having an onsite mortuary.

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 4528 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information