

Our Ref: 478/2021
April 2021

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

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

No such autopsies carried out in 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.

For the purposes of 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.