

Dear

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request concerning how the remains of abortions (terminations), still births and miscarriages have been disposed of.

The Trust can provide the following information:

1. For 2012/13

a. How many foetal remains (where foetal tissue was present) resulting from terminations under 12 weeks of gestation were

i) incinerated

ii) buried in groups (please provide breakdown to give size of each group, and location of burial)

iii) buried individually

iv) cremated in groups (please provide breakdown to give size of each group, and location of cremation)

v) cremated individually

vi) given to family to make own arrangements

b. How many foetal remains (where foetal tissue was present) resulting from terminations between 12 and 24 weeks of gestation were

i) incinerated

ii) buried in groups (please provide breakdown to give size of each group, and location of burial)

iii) buried individually

iv) cremated in groups (please provide breakdown to give size of each group, and location of cremation)

v) cremated individually

vi) given to family to make own arrangements

c. How many foetal remains (where foetal tissue was present) resulting from miscarriages under 12 weeks of gestation were

i) incinerated

ii) buried in groups (please provide breakdown to give size of each group, and location of burial)

iii) buried individually

iv) cremated in groups (please provide breakdown to give size of each group, and location of cremation)

v) cremated individually

vi) given to family to make own arrangements

d. How many foetal remains (where foetal tissue was present) resulting from miscarriages between 12 and 24 weeks of gestation were

i) incinerated

ii) buried in groups (please provide breakdown to give size of each group, and location of burial)

iii) buried individually

iv) cremated in groups (please provide breakdown to give size of each group, and location of cremation)

- v) cremated individually
- vi) given to family to make own arrangements

- e. How many foetal remains (where foetal tissue was present) resulting from stillbirths (over 24 weeks of gestation) were
- i) incinerated
 - ii) buried in groups (please provide breakdown to give size of each group, and location of burial)
 - iii) buried individually
 - iv) cremated in groups (please provide breakdown to give size of each group, and location of cremation)
 - v) cremated individually
 - vi) given to family to make own arrangements

2. The same for 2011/12

See below- response

	Communal Cremations	Stillbirths /miscarriages	Abortion
2011/12	50	125	863
2012/13	60	146	728

About the 24 week gestation or NVF [non-viable foetus]. Any remains below this mark can legally be disposed of by incineration or method of the hospital choice

For the very early gestations 8-17 weeks they would go on to a list for communal cremations this mean we would hold them in the mortuary until we have a complete list of 10 they are then sent for cremation at our contacted cemetery [city of London cemetery aldersbrook road E12 5DQ]

Most miscarriage are dealt with in this manner for the early gestations

Miscarriages for the 18weeks plus are normally classed as individual then the parents have the choice of burial or cremation

Stillbirth are normally over the 24 week gestations and would be for individual burial or cremation

Bereavement Midwives at our hospital care for families who have lost babies from 16 weeks gestation up until babies that die on the neonatal unit. This will include termination of pregnancy for medical reasons.

We offer all these families an Individual cremation or Burial. We do not group into gestation or type of loss for that reason we do not have separate figures for each type of baby loss (stillbirth's/miscarriages)

Abortion are sent to the mortuary from theatre's for incineration. The company we use for disposal is sita.uk. they have lots of sites UK wide so I am unable to be more precise

(stats for surgical or late abortions at HUH - early medical procedures are done at home so HUH not involved in disposal of tissue).

If you have any queries about this response please contact the information governance manager at foi@homerton.nhs.uk , in the first instance. If, following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk to take them further.

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Yours sincerely

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