

Dear

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request concerning disposal of fetal remains.

The Trust can provide the following information:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information to request records of disposal of all fetal remains from miscarriage, stillbirth and abortion.

More specifically:

1. a) In 2012/13, how many fetuses/fetal remains from miscarriage, stillbirth and abortion were disposed of by the hospital?

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

1. b) Please provide a breakdown by method of disposal, for example (but not limited to) buried separately, buried individually, incinerated, incinerated with clinical waste, cremated individually, cremated separately, passed to families for their own arrangements.

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 (stillbirths/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).

1. c) For those incinerated or incinerated (with) clinical waste, please provide a list of locations where this was carried out- [see above](#)

2. a) b) and c) The same for 2011/12- [see above](#)

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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