

Request title: Disposal of pregnancy remains

Date of Response: 29th September 2015

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

Request and reply

I am writing under the Freedom of Information to request records of disposal of all pregnancy remains from pregnancy loss or termination of pregnancy in a clinical setting by/via the Trust. The term 'pregnancy remains' is used by the Human Tissue Authority in its 'Guidance on the disposal of pregnancy remains following pregnancy loss or termination' to mean "in relation to all pregnancy losses, for example as a result of ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage or early intrauterine fetal death; it also applies to terminations of pregnancy that have not exceeded the 24th week of pregnancy." I am not seeking information on still births, or embryos created in vitro. I am requesting information for all pregnancy remains regardless of whether or not there is discernible fetal tissue. The HTA document referenced above says options on disposal of pregnancy remains must be available "regardless of whether or not there is discernible fetal tissue".

More specifically:

1. a) For so far this financial year 2015/16 (From 1 April 2015 to 1 September 2015), how many pregnancy remains from pregnancy loss were disposed of by/via the hospital? 208

1. b) Please provide a breakdown by method of disposal to show the number:

- Incinerated with other clinical waste (as clinical waste)	0
- Incinerated individually	0
- Incinerated in batches/groups of other fetal remains only	0
- Cremated individually	0
- Cremated in batches/groups	0
- Buried individually	14
- Buried in batches/groups	194
- Passed to families for their own arrangements	14
- Other method (please explain method/s)	0

1. c) For those incinerated in any way, please provide a list of location/s where this was carried out.

Not applicable.

2. a) For so far this financial year 2015/16 (From 1 April 2015 to 1 September 2015), how many pregnancy remains from termination were disposed of by/via the hospital? 279

2. b) Please provide a breakdown by method of disposal to show the number: See below

- Incinerated with other clinical waste (as clinical waste)	
- Incinerated individually	
- Incinerated in batches/groups of other fetal remains only	
- Cremated individually	
- Cremated in batches/groups	

- Buried individually
- Buried in batches/groups
- Passed to families for their own arrangements
- Other method (please explain method/s)

Sensitive disposal by incineration (incinerated as a group - separately from clinical waste). The facility is a fully licenced and registered plant where 'duty of care' visits are undertaken four times a year by a member of RD&E Trust staff.

Please note that the number of remains incinerated is not collated separately. The information provided above has been extracted from the Trust's coding system (all inpatient and daycase procedures are coded using national coding definitions); therefore the numbers are approximate. In addition, absolute figures cannot be given due to the gestational age on some data not being available.

2. c) For those incinerated in any way, please provide a list of location/s where this was carried out. A facility in the South West. The facility is a fully licenced and registered plant where 'duty of care' visits are undertaken four times a year by a member of RD&E Trust staff.

3. a) For the full financial year 2014/15, how many pregnancy remains from pregnancy loss were disposed of by/via the hospital? 451

3. b) Please provide a breakdown by method of disposal to show the number:

- Incinerated with other clinical waste (as clinical waste)	0
- Incinerated individually	0
- Incinerated in batches/groups of other fetal remains only	0
- Cremated individually	0
- Cremated in batches/groups	0
- Buried individually	27
- Buried in batches/groups	424
- Passed to families for their own arrangements	43
- Other method (please explain method/s)	0

3. c) For those incinerated in any way, please provide a list of location/s where this was carried out. Not applicable.

4. a) For the full financial year 2014/15, how many pregnancy remains from termination were disposed of by/via the hospital? 627

4. b) Please provide a breakdown by method of disposal to show the number: See below

- Incinerated with other clinical waste (as clinical waste)
- Incinerated individually
- Incinerated in batches/groups of other fetal remains only
- Cremated individually
- Cremated in batches/groups
- Buried individually
- Buried in batches/groups
- Passed to families for their own arrangements
- Other method (please explain method/s)

Sensitive disposal by incineration (incinerated as a group - separately from clinical waste). The facility is a fully licenced and registered plant where 'duty of care' visits are undertaken four times a year by a member of RD&E Trust staff.

Please note that the number of remains incinerated is not collated separately. The information provided above

has been extracted from the Trust's coding system (all inpatient and daycase procedures are coded using national coding definitions); therefore the numbers are approximate. In addition, absolute figures cannot be given due to the gestational age on some data not being available.

4. c) For those incinerated in any way, please provide a list of location/s where this was carried out.

A facility in the South West. The facility is a fully licenced and registered plant where 'duty of care' visits are undertaken four times a year by a member of RD&E Trust staff.