

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to respond to your request [REDACTED] [REDACTED] November 2015. Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust can confirm that it holds the data that you requested. We have provided the information in a format that will represent the information required in a user friendly way.

The information relates to both Gynaecology and Maternity. Some information is held as separate specialisms, whilst other information is recorded centrally and not easily divided without pulling individual notes. Please find information relating to the J [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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?

Gynaecology 220 and Maternity 60

- b) Please provide a breakdown by method of disposal to show the number:
- Incinerated with other clinical waste (as clinical waste). NONE
  - Incinerated individually. NONE
  - Incinerated in batches/groups of other fetal remains only. NONE
  - Cremated individually. NONE
  - Cremated in batches/groups. NONE
  - Buried individually. Gynaecology 10 couples took their fetal tissue home and organized their own burial
  - Buried in batches/groups. Maternity 60 were buried in the SANDS communal burial plot
  - Passed to families for their own arrangements 5 were recorded for Gynaecology. The Chaplaincy have records indicating that 16 couples have arranged for their fetal tissues to be returned with a view to undertaking private cremation
  - Other method (please explain method/s). 205 (1st trimester) pregnancy tissue remains are appropriately stored in preparation for group burial

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

In Gynaecology we do not differentiate between pregnancy tissue resulting from termination and miscarriage. All pregnancy tissue is treated equally and cared for as per hospital policy of communal burial. This is performed by the chaplaincy team and pregnancy tissue is blessed during burial.

In maternity 27 (second trimester) terminations were noted of which the majority chose hospital communal burial but without pulling medical notes we are unable to confirm exact numbers.

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

- Incinerated with other clinical waste (as clinical waste). None
- Incinerated individually. None
- Incinerated in batches/groups of other fetal remains only. None
- Cremated individually. None
- Cremated in batches/groups. None
- Buried individually
- Buried in batches/groups. None
- Passed to families for their own arrangements
- Other method (please explain method/s). None

- c) For those incinerated in any way, please provide a list of location/s where this was carried out. None
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### 3.

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

Gynaecology 489  
Maternity 76

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

- Incinerated with other clinical waste (as clinical waste). Prior to April 2015 Trust policy for the disposal of pregnancy tissue was by incineration through an external company. Whilst on the hospital site all pregnancy tissue was placed together in a sealed container, clearly marked not for any other clinical waste. The container was clearly labelled to contain fetal tissue only
- Incinerated individually. None
- Incinerated in batches/groups of other fetal remains only – incineration is performed by an external company
- Cremated individually. None
- Cremated in batches/groups. None
- Buried individually. None
- Buried in batches/groups. In maternity 76 were buried in the SANDS communal burial plot
- Passed to families for their own arrangements. Gynaecology 16 were recorded. Maternity 2 were recorded.
- Other method (please explain method/s). None

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

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

In Gynaecology we do not differentiate between pregnancy tissue resulting from termination and miscarriage. All pregnancy tissue is treated equally and cared for as per hospital policy of communal burial. This is performed by the chaplaincy team and pregnancy tissue is blessed during burial.

In maternity 37 (2nd trimester) terminations were chosen for hospital burial.

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

- Incinerated with other clinical waste (as clinical waste) None
  - Incinerated individually None
  - Incinerated in batches/groups of other fetal remains only -None
  - Cremated individually. 0
  - Cremated in batches/groups – None
  - Buried individually. 0
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- Buried in batches/groups. 0
- Passed to families for their own arrangements. In maternity
- Other method (please explain method/s)

c) For those incinerated in any way, please provide a list of location/s where this was carried out. None

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Please note that on 1 November 2011 the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust (ORH) merged with the Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust (NOC) to form the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust .

Internal review

If you are dissatisfied with the service or response to your request you can ask for an internal review by writing to:

██████████ Director of Assurance, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington, Oxford OX3 9DU.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

Telephone: 0303 123 1113 Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

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