

FOI REF: 25/919

20th January 2026

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the storage of brain tumours.

- 1) **Does your Trust hold a record or inventory of medical-grade freezer units used for the storage of biological, histopathology, research, or biobanking tissue samples?**
 - a) **If yes, please provide the (a) number of units and (b) storage temperature category (for example -20°C, -80°C).**

We do not hold this information as all East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust's Neuro Surgical referrals are made to University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (UHSussex). Therefore, please refer your request to UHSussex, via the following email, for a response to your request:

uhsussex.foi@nhs.net

- 2) **Are any of these freezer units currently used for the rapid freezing and/or long-term storage of brain tissue samples?**
 - a) **If yes, please state (i) the number of units used for brain tissue and (ii) the typical storage temperature used.**

Please refer to question 1.

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- 3) **Regardless of current use, does the Trust have freezer units capable of supporting fresh- or flash- frozen brain tissue storage that is suitable for therapeutic development?**
- a) **Does the Trust currently have access to rapid freezing equipment suitable for brain tissue?**

Please refer to question 1.

- 4) **Only if feasible within the FOI time and cost limit, please indicate whether any existing freezer unit in the Trust could be repurposed or shared between departments to enable brain tissue storage or expand current capacity.**

Please refer to question 1.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net