

Trust Headquarters
Russells Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Date: 23/07/2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - Ref: FOI/011746

With reference to your FOI request that was received on 04/02/2014 in connection with 'Fetal burials'.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is enclosed.

Information Commissioner

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Fax: 01625 524510
www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Manager
Room 34a, First Floor, Esk House, Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, DY1 2HQ
Email: FOI@dgh.nhs.uk

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for information on burials of fetal remains (from stillbirths, miscarriages, and terminations).

1. In 2012/13:

a) How many burials of fetal remains from (stillbirths, miscarriages, and terminations) were arranged by the Trust. Please provide a breakdown showing how many burials were individual burials, and how many were group burials (including the size of each group burial).

b) What was the total cost of the burials?

c) For those buried in group or communal burial plots/sites, please provide the location of these plots/sites, and the numbers of remains buried in each plot during the year. Please also state how many of these were burials of stillbirths.

2. a), b) and c) Same for 2011/12

Response

The Trust uses AJ Timmins funeral Directors but please note that where parents choose to use their own choice then the Trust does not pay for those. The Trust only pays where the Trust contracted Funeral Director is used.

The following figures have kindly been provided by AJ Timmins (under no obligation under FOI) as Trust invoices do not differentiate between burial and cremation. The manager at AJ Timmins has said that this is as accurate as they can provide.

All babies or recognisable foetal remains are either buried or cremated individually. This applies to before and after 24 weeks gestation.

2011-2012

64 Non-viable fetus cremations

21 Non-viable fetus burials

24 weeks + baby cremations

Total spent approx. £15,520

2012-2013

49 Non-viable fetus cremations

10 Non-viable fetus burials

19 24 weeks + baby cremations

Total spent approx £12,480