



Department of  
**Justice**  
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Mánnystrie O tha Laa  
[www.justice-ni.gov.uk](http://www.justice-ni.gov.uk)

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15 January 2024

**REFERENCE: FOI\24\8**

Dear Sir

Thank you for your request for information, dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and detailed below.

‘Under Freedom of Information legislation you previously (FOI\21\52) provided me with a breakdown of the number of times your health trust had recorded injuries/damage to a patient’s body after death (e.g. fractures/broken bones/lacerations) while within the vicinity/grounds of one of your hospitals between January 2010 to December 2020.

This request was asking for unusual or unplanned injury to a body e.g. those that are not related to the normal processes of a post-mortem examination or autopsy.

In a new request, could you please provide the same information for the calendar years January 2021 to December 2023’.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives you two rights of access when you write to us asking for information. You have the right to know whether we hold recorded information falling in scope of your request, and you have the right to receive this recorded information subject to cost limit or exemption.

A response to the information you requested is provided below:

*Using the State Pathologist’s Departments in-house records, I can confirm there have been no incidents of accidental damage to a deceased body during the period requested (January 2021- December 2023) while in the vicinity and under the care of the Northern Ireland Regional Forensic Mortuary.*

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you request an internal review please do so in writing stating the reasons to the address above.

If following an internal review you were to remain dissatisfied you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask the Commissioner to investigate whether the DOJ has complied with the terms of the FOIA. You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

The Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out.

Further details on the role of the Information Commissioner and the handling of appeals can be found at: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Records & Information Manager**