

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 4765

**Please reply to:**  
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## **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Mortuary capacity.

*You asked:*

- 1. The total number of storage spaces in each of your two hospitals' mortuaries.*
- 2. At what percentage capacity are the mortuaries in the two hospitals currently running?*
- 3. What happens to deceased bodies when there is no space?*
- 4. A monthly breakdown of the number of these incidents between June 2017 and May 2018, with details as to what happened to the bodies in each instance.*
- 5. Copies of the business case which has recently been submitted to increase capacity (mentioned on page 21 here: <http://www.mtw.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Agenda-and-Reports-Part-1-May-2018-full.pdf>)*
- 6. Copies of any contracts, agreements and other correspondence between the trust and Nutwells, which supplied additional capacity in November 2017 from within the last 12 months (June 2017-May 2018).*

Trust response:

1. 134 spaces (plus extra 27 with temporary 'Nutwells')
2. 55%
3. We have a contingency plan (includes transferring [with relatives permission] between the two mortuaries, requesting funeral directors to remove deceased and hiring in of 'Nutwell' temporary storage [inside the mortuary]). We have never reached a point of no spaces.
4. See 3.
5. & 6.

The Trust is applying Section 43(2) FOIA which provides an exemption from disclosure of information which would or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). This is a qualified exemption, and is therefore subject to the public interest test.

The Trust believes that the information requested contains details which would be likely to damage the company's ability to win new business opportunities for their services and to perform them within a commercially competitive market because other contracting authorities and competitors would be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of its delivery model and methodology.

The Trust also believes that the disclosure of the business case would provide competitors with an insight into their relative strengths and weaknesses and this would give them a commercial advantage, to the detriment of the companies concerned as this would be likely to prejudice their position in any future tendering opportunity.

The Trust has concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption, and therefore protecting the commercial interests of the suppliers and preserving its ability to compete fairly in a commercial market, outweighs the public interest in disclosure in this case.