

Ref. No: 2244
Date: 22/12/25
Subject: Brain Cancer freezer units

REQUEST & RESPONSE

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

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

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?

1. If yes, please provide the (a) number of units and (b) storage temperature category (for example -20°C, -80°C)

Yes – 2 units -20°C and - 80C

2. Are any of these freezer units currently used for the rapid freezing and/or long-term storage of brain tissue samples?

1. If yes, please state (a) the number of units used for brain tissue and (b) the typical storage temperature used.

No

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.

Does the Trust currently have access to rapid freezing equipment suitable for brain tissue?

No, the Trust doesn't have access to rapid freezing equipment suitable for brain tissue.

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.

No, no freezer could be repurposed as described.