

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

**The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request**

**Date Request Received: 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**FOI Ref No 29087**

**Requested Information:**

1. Can you tell me how I can find out, what happens to tissues/parts when they are removed from a living person?
2. Do you ever keep, donate, or sell healthy parts you have removed for research purposes?
3. How do you record what happens to people's parts?
4. Does your trust receive incentives/funding for offering sterilisation?

**Response:**

1.
  - Any tissues removed as part of an interventional procedure are disposed of in accordance with all relevant legislation via the Histopathology team. "Human tissues and fluids submitted to the cellular pathology department for histological or cytological examination (then regarded as specimens) are disposed of in line with relevant legislation. Other pathology disciplines also receive specimens (predominantly fluids) from patients which require disposal after examination. Human tissues and fluids are also disposed of elsewhere within the hospital (e.g. wards, clinics, operating theatres) or in the community (e.g. GP practices) when it is deemed there is no clinical need for pathological examination."
  - For information regarding the dignified "disposal" of tissue parts following a miscarriage, please see the links below:
    - [Miscarriage Management in the Second Trimester Clinical Guideline](#)
    - [Retained Placenta Diagnosis and Management Clinical Guideline](#)
2. Any specimens removed and donated by patients to a clinical research project are done so with the patient's express consent. No specimens are sold. All clinical research trials are governed by NHS good research practice guidelines to which we abide. Each individual clinical trial is overseen by the

Trust Ethics Committee. Specimens will be disposed of in line with the agreed retention and disposal schedule of the clinical research trial.

3. Please see the answers to questions 1 and 2 above.
4. No. The trust is not incentivised to offer male or female sterilisation although these procedures may be performed in line with agreed commissioning policies - [Commissioning policies](#)

**Attachment(s):**

No Attachment(s)

**Date Response sent: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025**