

Response document – FOI request 5782

Request

The subject of interest is the heel prick test (guthrie card).

- (1) from which date did your centre first start testing?
- (2) from which date did your centre first start storing the cards?
- (3) approximately how many cards do you currently hold in storage?
- (4) what are the purposes of storing cards once they have been tested? is research or further testing conducted on the cards and does any of the generic information pertained on the cards get used?
- (5) are there any instances where use of the stored cards lead to families being contacted?
- (6) do you have a policy for destruction of the cards?
- (7) have any cards been destroyed? if so, who requested this?
- (8) have any cards or their information/genetic material been released to any government agency, police, coroners or other party?
if so, who may order a release of such information.
- (9) what generic information is available on each card?
- (10) what information do you store electronically from these cards?
- (11) can I currently you currently request for them to be destroyed if you agree with the heel prick test.

Response

We started to use the heel prick (Guthrie test, now known as the New Born Blood Spot (NBBS) test) in the 1970's.

We don't store any cards as analysis is undertaken in a regional laboratory based at the RVI in Newcastle. We are therefore unable to provide answers to questions 2-11.