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Our ref: MOC/ 285059

Dear Ms Roantree

Re: Information request

Thank you for your request dated 26 April 2015 for information from NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) regarding lung transplants between January 2010 and January 2015 where the recipient was a patient from Ireland.

I am writing to advise you that we are able to provide you with the following information in response to your request.

How many Lung Transplants have there been between January 2010 to January 2015 where the receiver was a patient from Northern or the Republic of Ireland.

NHSBT is the organ donation organisation for the UK and is responsible for matching and allocating donated organs. NHSBT offers donated organs to surgeons in the designated transplant units across the UK.

The only transplants undertaken in Northern Ireland are kidney transplants at Belfast City Hospital. Northern Irish residents are a part of the UK system of organ allocation and may be listed at another transplant unit within the UK to receive a transplant. Northern Ireland residents may travel to the Republic of Ireland for transplants but NHSBT do not hold details of this.

There is formal agreement between the Republic of Ireland and Freeman Hospital in Newcastle where Irish residents can travel to the UK for lung transplant.

Between January 2010 and January 2015 there were 26 lung transplants performed in the UK where the patient was resident in Northern Ireland and 21 where the patient was resident in the Republic of Ireland.

Every effort is made to ensure that a donated organ does not go to waste if there is someone who can benefit. Donated organs/tissue are made available to any hospital in the UK where there is a patient in need. NHSBT staff identify whether there are any urgent cases, with blood group or age compatibility, in any of the transplant centres. Sometimes there are no suitable patients anywhere in the UK but a reciprocal arrangement with the European Union enables donor organs to be offered

to other EU countries. This co-operation increases the chance of a suitable recipient being found, ensuring that precious organs or tissue do not go to waste.

How many of those Irish Patients were under the age of thirty.

19 of those patients were aged under 30 at the time of transplant.

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I hope this is helpful in addressing your questions. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Lawley
Head of External Affairs

E-mail: xxxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xxx.xx

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an review of our decision, you should write to: Customer Services Operations Manager, NHS Blood and Transplant, Oak House, Reeds Crescent, Watford, WD24 4QN (Email: xxxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xxx.xx).

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.