

## Freedom of Information Request

Under Freedom of Information legislation can you please provide me with a breakdown of how many times your health trust has recorded injuries/damage to a patient's body after death (e.g. fractures/broken bones/lacerations) while within the vicinity/grounds of one of your hospitals. Please consider this request as asking for unusual or unplanned injury to a body e.g. those that are not related to the normal processes of a post-mortem examination or autopsy.

Please provide the following information for the last ten calendar years (January 2011 to December 2021). If you cannot provide this time period because of cost and time exemptions, please provide this information for the most recent five calendar years or the longest time period possible to comply with cost and time exemptions.

Please provide the information in a Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet or table with the following column headings for each incident:

- Year injury occurred
- Hospital location
- Short description of type of injury/break/fracture/laceration
- Short description of how injury is believed to have occurred
- Short description of where in the hospital the injury is believed to have occurred.
- Were the family informed of the injuries (Yes/No)

- Year injury occurred                      2018
- Hospital location                              Causeway Hospital, 4 Newbridge Road, Coleraine
- Short description of type of injury/break/fracture/laceration

The body deteriorated due to length of stay in the mortuary before release to an undertaker

- Short description of how injury is believed to have occurred

The body was covered with a cooling blanket which was not sufficient to keep the body at a cold enough temperature to slow the rate of decomposition.

- Short description of where in the hospital the injury is believed to have occurred.

Causeway Hospital Mortuary

- Were the family informed of the injuries (Yes/No)                      Yes



- **Year – 2013**
- **Hospital Location – Causeway Hospital**
- **Short description of type of injury/break/fracture/laceration** - When the body was being moved the body-bag ripped and the deceased shoulder and arm were exposed. It was later noted that there was a small tear on the back of the deceased right hand.
- **Short description of how injury is believed to have occurred** - The trolley prohibited lateral moves from the bed to trolley. Staff used the body bag to support the full weight of the body as the body was not wrapped in any form of sheet or shroud. Bodies with c-diff are not wrapped when going or a post mortem examination.
- **Short description of where in the hospital the injury is believed to have occurred** - Causeway Hospital Mortuary
- **Were the family informed of the injuries (Yes/No)** Yes.