

F-2014-00212 - The number of incidents where eggs and embryos were accidentally disposed of

04 August 2014

Summary of request

The Authority was asked for the number of incidents where eggs and embryos were accidentally disposed of during fertility treatment in the UK.

HFEA response

The table below shows data for eggs disposed of or lost without consent broken down by country.

Year	Total	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Wales
2013	13	10	<5	<5	<5
2012	10	7	<5	<5	0
2011	14	13	<5	<5	<5
2010	13	11	<5	<5	<5
2009	8	6	<5	<5	<5

Numbers smaller than 5 have been replaced with a '<5' figure as there is a significant possibility that this information, when combined with other information to which someone may reasonably be expected to have access, could lead to the identification of a person to whom the HFEA owes a duty of confidentiality. To disclose this information may therefore result in a breach of the confidentiality provisions of section 33A of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended), and the information is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The requested information regarding embryos is currently available on the HFEA website for each year since 2001: <http://www.hfea.gov.uk/8883.html>.

As this requested information is reasonably accessible via the HFEA website, it is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the FOIA.