

From The Chief Medical Officer:  
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Human Organs Inquiry  
Relatives Reference Group  
Consultant Histopathologists  
Coroners  
MLAs  
HSS Councils  
Chief Executives of HSS Trusts  
Directors of Public Health  
Heartbreak

Dear Colleague

## **INVESTIGATION INTO RETAINED ORGANS THE**

I enclose a copy of the report which outlines the result of my investigation into retained organs. This information was provided by the Trusts in Northern Ireland, in order to establish in how many postmortems organs had been retained here.

The report contains information which was previously made public by the Minister to the Assembly in March 2001 and details the number of organs retained in hospitals in Northern Ireland. It also outlines the role of the postmortem examination, gives details of the different types of such examinations and how postmortems are conducted. This information is now being passed to the Human Organs Inquiry and the Relatives Reference Group.

Yours sincerely

**DR HENRIETTA CAMPBELL  
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**

**Enc**