

Appendix 1 DL 2026(05) Mortuary Security & Management

Fuller Report Recommendation	NHSGJ Response
Security	
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>All NHS trusts with mortuaries and/or body stores should commission a specialist strategic review of the systems in place to protect deceased people, which should include a detailed risk assessment of the potential breaches of security that could occur. The review should include an assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the systems in place to identify any unauthorised access to the facility; - the strength and effectiveness of barriers to prevent unauthorised access to the facilities; - the systems in place to identify any access to deceased people for unauthorised purposes; - How CCTV is used, including its monitoring and any audits undertaken. 	<p>Risk Assessment completed involving multi-disciplinary team consisting of Clinical Nurse Manager, Mortuary Technician and Head of H&S.</p> <p>Access control arrangements are being strengthened, including the move to swipe-in / swipe-out monitoring and consideration of an alarm system. Authorised access lists are formally reviewed on a monthly basis, with permissions removed where no longer required.</p>
<p>All NHS trusts should install CCTV inside the mortuary, with cameras facing all doors and access points, the reception area and the doors of body fridges, while maintaining the security and dignity of deceased people by implementing the appropriate safeguards. Where double-ended fridges also open into the post-mortem room, NHS trusts should install</p>	<p>CCTV coverage to the mortuary is being enhanced in line with Fuller recommendations. Internal installation is progressing, with cabling completed and linkage to the main hospital CCTV system soon to be underway. There are no double-ended fridges at NHSGJ, removing the requirement for post-mortem room CCTV.</p>

CCTV cameras inside the post-mortem room that focus on the doors to the fridges.	
Recommendation 3 All NHS trusts should routinely audit the access data of all facilities used to store deceased people.	Quarterly audits of swipe-card access are undertaken by the Mortuary Technician with support from the Security Team, providing routine oversight and assurance.
Recommendation 4 The practice of using shared electronic swipe cards for specific staff groups should cease immediately.	There is no evidence of swipe cards being shared. This is strictly prohibited.
Recommendation 5 All NHS trusts should consider putting in place systemic operational barriers that prevent the security and dignity of deceased people being compromised. An example of this would be implementation of a rule that prevents electronic devices such as phones or cameras being taken into a mortuary, other than for approved reasons.	Robust physical and operational controls are in place, including electronic access controls to the mortuary and secured body fridges with restricted key access held by Security. The use of mobile phones is prohibited, supported by clear signage consistent with wider patient care environments.
Recommendation 6 All NHS trusts should take every breach of security in a mortuary or body store extremely seriously. Each security incident should be reviewed by a security expert who is able to identify any systemic security issues associated with the incident. A detailed action plan should be developed for each security breach, no matter how minor trusts regard such breaches to be. All security breaches occurring in	All mortuary security incidents and near misses are reported via Datix, ensuring consistency with organisational adverse-incident governance processes. Incidents are reviewed with Security input, with high-risk issues, trends or themes escalated through established governance and sub-committee reporting routes to the

mortuaries should be incorporated into security reports provided to trust boards or relevant subcommittees, in line with security breaches in other vulnerable areas.	Board where appropriate.
<p>Recommendation 8 All NHS trusts should consider the installation of 'swipe to exit' for mortuary facilities. This would allow trusts to monitor and audit entry and exit, as well as time spent in the mortuary.</p> <p>Recommendation 9 All NHS trusts should monitor the number of staff with access to the mortuary or body store and keep this under routine review.</p>	<p>Swipe-to-exit functionality is currently being installed, enabling full monitoring of entry, exit and time spent within the mortuary.</p> <p>Mortuary access rights are reviewed on a monthly basis by the Security Team to ensure access remains appropriate and proportionate.</p>
Management of Mortuary Services	
<p>Recommendation 14 NHS Trusts should assure themselves that the Mortuary Manager has adequate resources and support to perform their role effectively, including meeting any reporting requirements</p>	<p>The Mortuary Supervisor is supported through the nursing leadership structure, strengthening professional oversight, reporting and governance arrangements. Aspects of security are reported via H&S committee.</p>

<p>Recommendation 15</p> <p>All NHS Trusts should establish a routine reporting system for matters relating to mortuaries and body stores. The reporting system should include the presentation of a formal report, by the accountable executive director, to the trust board on a routine basis. The accountable executive director should prepare and present to the trust board a formal annual report, similar to the annual safeguarding report. The report should include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staffing matters• Security incidents• All serious incidents• Human Tissue Authority reports (where applicable)• All security audits, including audits of access and any access breaches.	<p>A formal annual report will be compiled for 2026/27.</p> <p>HTA reports currently reported through clinical governance framework and shared with the organ donation committee.</p>
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