
HUMAN TISSUE AUTHORITY CONSULTATION ON THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY**Response by the Wellcome Trust**

November 2008

1. The Wellcome Trust is the largest charity in the UK. It funds innovative biomedical research, in the UK and internationally, spending around £600 million each year to support the brightest scientists with the best ideas. The Wellcome Trust supports public debate about biomedical research and its impact on health and wellbeing.
2. We welcome the efforts of the Human Tissue Authority to work with the museum sector and are broadly supportive of the content of the Code. However, we do seek clarification on the following points.

General comments

3. We still believe that the annual general fee for this sector is disproportionately high, especially in regard to the type of activity this sector undertakes and the 'risks' it poses. This fee is particularly onerous for the smaller museums.
4. The section on "Governance and quality systems" does not seem to take into consideration current sector standards in relation to accreditation and benchmarking in collection care. As a consequence, the Code, as it is currently written, is placing a heavy burden on the resources of smaller museums.

Specific comments

Paragraph 28

5. Although details are given later in the Code about conditions where a licence is not required, we would endorse including a third bullet point in Paragraph 28, which states "a licence is not required for the storage or public display of body parts or tissue from the living". This is an important point that needs to be included earlier in the Code.

Paragraph 49

6. The age of consent for children needs to be specified in this document, as it has been in the other Codes.

Paragraph 93

7. As regards emergency storage, it needs to be stated whether/ or under what circumstances a licence is required.