

**Code A**  
**From:** **Code A**  
**Sent:** 20 August 2002 13:13  
**To:** **Code A**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** **Code A**  
Thank you for your e-mail about **Code A** (deceased).

In my letter to **Code A** dated 28 August 1998 I say 'At the time of post-mortem examination I selected small pieces of tissue from the lungs and heart and placed them into tissue processing cassettes and these were placed into a small container with formalin. Additional slices of lung and the heart were retained in a larger container with formalin.' Both of these containers have been lost, as has already been explained several times to **Code A** senior. I also say in the same letter 'At the time of post-mortem examination I selected a sample from the lower lobe of the left lung and sent this for microbiological culture.' This specimen was clearly received by Microbiology as a report was issued. This latter piece of tissue would not now be retained by Microbiology.

In my letter dated 2 August 2000 to **Code A** explained in further detail what specimens I had taken from the post-mortem. These letters should both be in the file. I really feel that the issues that **Code A** raises in his letter have previously been addressed.

I do not have copies of all the letters sent by your department to **Code A** but I believe that I have provided to your department in writing the information **Code A** is requesting on at least two previous occasions.

In summary, no tissue is retained from the post-mortem. There are no glass slides or paraffin blocks because the two specimen containers were not received in the laboratory and were therefore not processed. I presume that Microbiology would have disposed of the small piece of lung they received. You may wish to check with them how long they keep such specimens.

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