# Bodies Found Decomposing in NHS Hospitals Due to Storage Issues



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Inspectors from the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) have reported multiple incidents of bodies decomposing in NHS hospitals across England due to inadequate storage facilities and a lack of freezer space. According to HTA guidance, bodies should be moved to frozen storage after 30 days in fridges.

At Leeds General Infirmary, inspectors found a body that had decomposed after being stored for 70 days outside of frozen storage, despite coroner release. Another body had been in storage for 47 days showing signs of decomposition. Inspectors also criticized the lack of a cleaning schedule and inadequate security at the mortuary.

Similar issues were identified at other hospitals. The Royal Blackburn Hospital had cases of bodies in an advanced state of decomposition in 2022 due to insufficient freezer storage. King’s College Hospital in London faced “critical” shortfalls the same year, with bodies stored in mouldy, infested conditions. At John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, inadequate storage space resulted in bodies showing signs of deterioration after 30 days in refrigerated storage.

The Health Service Journal reported at least 10 incidents of decomposing bodies since 2022. The HTA has emphasized the importance of storing bodies at appropriate temperatures and ensuring adequate storage provisions. Various hospital spokespeople have acknowledged the lapses and have indicated steps have been taken to improve storage conditions and communication with coroners.