



the answer is in

# tissue

View the eye-opening presentations from October's **Human Tissues Conference** in the House of Lords, or register your interest in the new Working Party on Human Tissues at: [www.safermedicines.org/humantissues](http://www.safermedicines.org/humantissues)

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The Human Tissue Act (2004) has placed a stranglehold on UK Academic Medicine, particularly Academic Pathology. Legitimate access to human tissues has become restricted with the result that essential biomedical research into human diseases has been compromised. The pharmaceutical industry, a major contributor to the UK economy, is also suffering from the recent restrictions.

Reduced access to human tissues, especially those that are otherwise discarded following surgical procedures, undermines a tacit expectation by all members of society that doctors and scientists within the UK are working to solve biomedical problems and discover new treatments so that each person might receive the most appropriate care when they become ill. In many respects, this unwritten contract between the public and the biomedical research community has been jeopardised by the Human Tissue Act.

There is now sufficient objective evidence that application of the Human Tissue Act in its present form is compromising aspects of scientific endeavour within the UK and needs urgent revision. It is vital that tissue samples that are redundant after diagnostic requirements should be made more freely available for ethical biomedical research for the benefit of all members of society.

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Professor Baroness Finlay of Llandaff      Professor Sir Nicholas A. Wright

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