An anatomical image is defined as any visual representation of human cadaveric material (e.g. photographs, digital images, video recordings or drawings). Such visual representations may be disseminated in a number of ways, including lectures or seminars (synchronous or asynchronous), in streamed or face-to-face practical instruction, as part of online learning resources or in publications.

Although UK and Irish legislation is silent on the taking and use of images, best practice is to request consent through the Donor Consent Form for images to be used for education, training and research. Such images should ensure that the dignity of the donor is maintained.

The acquisition, use and storage of images should be sanctioned by the individual who is legally responsible for ensuring compliance with relevant legislation and local protocols. Individual donors should in general not be identifiable in images of cadaveric material. However, images to be used ***within*** the dissecting room and ‘secure’ practicals may directly reflect the material being used.

A record should be kept of a) all anatomical images taken, b) to whom they have been disseminated and, c) for what purpose, using an appropriate, standardised form. Digital images of cadaveric material should only be uploaded to institutional learning platforms in an appropriate and secure manner, ensuring that only ‘authorised users’ have access to them.

Digital images should only be stored by ‘authorised users’ on password-protected devices, and should not be shared with non-authorised users, or on social media platforms. The prohibition of sharing applies to digital files and printed copy. To avoid inadvertent sharing, an ‘authorised user’ should only view anatomical images in a suitable, private environment.

‘Authorised users’ should be informed of these guidelines and the consequences of their breach.