

F-2014-00079 - Groups made aware of the call for evidence regarding the Mitochondria Scientific Review

15 April 2014

Summary of request

The Authority was asked for groups and individuals that were made aware of the recent Mitochondria Scientific Review call for evidence, the basis on which they were chosen to be informed and how many in opposition of the proposed science were included.

HFEA response

The HFEA published its call for evidence regarding the safety and efficacy of pro-nuclear transfer and maternal spindle transfer techniques on its website on 7 March 2014. It informed 67 groups or individuals directly who were invited to circulate the call to 'any colleagues who work in this area'.

The call for evidence was sent directly to researchers and professional bodies (the majority of whom had been sent the calls for evidence for previous reviews carried out on this topic in 2011 and 2013), who had been identified by the HFEA's expert panel and the Executive as having expertise relevant to the topic, i.e. those who may have published or been aware of scientific evidence relating to the safety or efficacy of pro-nuclear transfer and maternal spindle transfer techniques to avoid the transmission of mitochondrial disease.

The HFEA does not hold a comprehensive record of which individuals or groups, who were sent the call for evidence, oppose the proposed science as their opinions, either positive or negative, were not used as a criterion for choosing those to whom the call for evidence was sent.