

F-2014-00288 - Embryos currently in storage

28 October 2014

Summary of request

The Authority was asked for the number of surplus embryos currently frozen in the UK.

HFEA response

The information since 1991 can be found in the table below. Please note that this is a count of all embryos being stored. Embryos may subsequently be removed from storage for use, because they have reached the end of their permitted storage period, the patient no longer requires them, the donor has withdrawn consent or for research purposes.

When the numbers are between one and four they have been replaced with a '<5' figure. This is because there is a significant possibility that this information, when combined with other information to which you may reasonably be expected to have access, could lead to the identification of a person to whom the HFEA owes a duty of confidentiality. To disclose this information in these circumstances may therefore result in a breach of the confidentiality provisions of section 33A of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended). The information is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Year	Embryos stored for patient use	Embryos stored for donation	Embryos stored for research	Total
1991	4938	61	0	4999
1992	15894	48	0	15942
1993	19740	56	0	19796
1994	23600	34	0	23634
1995	32463	44	0	32507
1996	39339	78	0	39417
1997	37172	80	0	37252
1998	42777	146	0	42923
1999	43467	168	<5	43638
2000	47980	133	43	48156
2001	49078	170	33	49281
2002	45804	168	39	46011
2003	43597	144	20	43761
2004	44676	159	25	44860
2005	45678	206	21	45905
2006	50770	70	39	50879

2007 48687	98	352	49137
2008 51852	88	1706	53646
2009 50918	70	1597	52585
2010 51095	111	1253	52459
2011 50572	47	776	51395
2012 49755	73	535	50363
2013 60103	12	372	60487
Totals949955	2264	6814	959033