Information for Quality programme: update

Strategic delivery:	☒ Setting standards	☒ Increasing and informing choice	☒ Demonstrating efficiency economy and value

Details:	
Meeting	Authority
Agenda item	7
Paper number	HFEA (14/09/2016) 807
Meeting date	14 September 2016
Author	Nick Jones, Director of Compliance and Information

Output:	
For information or decision?	For information
Recommendation	The Authority is asked to note: • The update on work in progress • 'Release 2' progress • Data migration and cleansing • Programme timelines and budget.
Resource implications	No additional resource implications above that already budgeted
Implementation date	During 2016–17 business year
Communication(s)	Regular, range of mechanisms
Organisational risk	☐ Low ☐ Medium ☒ High
Annexes	

1.　Background

1.1.　The Information for Quality (IfQ) programme encompasses:

- The redesign of our website and Choose a Fertility Clinic (CaFC) function

- The redesign of the 'Clinic Portal' (used for interacting with clinics) and combining it with data submission functionality that is currently provided in our separate system (used by clinics to submit treatment data to us)

- A revised dataset and data dictionary which will be submitted for approval by the Standardisation Committee for Care Information (SCCI)

- A revised Register of treatments, which will include the migration of historical data contained within the existing Register

- The redesign of our main internal systems that comprise the Authority's Register and supporting IT processes.

1.2.　Given the importance of IfQ to our strategy, we update the Authority on progress at each meeting and seek approval for direction and actions.

1.3.　This paper updates Members on:

- Progression to public Beta for 'Release 1' products and plans for live release

- Progress in relation to Release 2 component and progress with regards to the dataset; data migration and cleansing

- Programme timelines and budget.

2.　Update on work in progress

2.1.　First, it is important to remind Members that government IT programmes must progress through several approval stages:

- 'alpha' (build a prototype, test it with users and learn from it)

- 'beta' (scaling up, a working model)

- 'public beta' (going public with a beta version, receiving feedback and preparing to go live)

- 'live' (a tested solution that is ready to release and then continuously improved).

2.2.　At the July 2016 meeting of the Authority it was noted that the website had been launched the day before in a private version of beta for clinics only to access. This step was taken to enable clinics to familiarise themselves with the presentation of their Choose a Fertility Clinic data on the website, and to use the Clinic Portal to upload other information to the site, for a two-week period (extended to three weeks) prior to full beta public launch.

2.3.　The Clinic Portal was released to public beta one week later on 12 July 2016. Further development and improvements will continue throughout beta. We will also seek user feedback, including a structured session in early September in a

'lab' setting where users can feed back their experience directly to our contractor. An update will be provided at the meeting. The Government Digital Service (GDS) assessment of the Clinic Portal to enable progression to 'live' is scheduled for October 2016.

2.4. We had planned to make the beta version of the website available to the public a few weeks after showing it to clinics. However, we were prevented from doing so due to an injunction granted by the High Court on 14 July following an application brought by a clinic. This injunction was lifted following our application and the website proceeded to full public beta on 12 August 2016. The clinic concerned has issued judicial review proceedings and a rolled up hearing is scheduled to take place on 19 and 20 December 2016.

2.5. Now that we have gone to public beta, we have launched a significant period of user testing and the gathering of feedback about aspects of the website, including the ease of access, the presentation of headline measures, and so on. Visitors to the website are asked to complete a survey, and to date there have been over 500 visits to the beta site.

2.6. The feedback from public beta will be one element of the evidence that will inform the Authority's decision on the final shape of the new website. We will also be inviting the IfQ Advisory Group to meet again to help inform the set of recommendations that we will put to the Authority at its meeting in November.

2.7. With the Judicial Review pending we are of the view that it would make sense to postpone the GDS assessment until any legal disputes are resolved. We have therefore scheduled the GDA 'live' assessment for late January 2017.

2.8. There are several consequences that flow from this delay. Two operational issues worth highlighting here are:

- The current HFEA website content management system is dated and is no longer supported by the original supplier, which can lead to instability from time to time. This has been managed to date but this risk remains as long as it remains as our official site.

- There has been a concentration of resources in preparing the website for beta launch. This reallocation of resources has had an effect on planning assumptions, in particular relating to development work necessary for Release 2 – the data submission module.

3.   Progress on Release 2

3.1. Release 2 work is now progressing with much endeavour. Substantial work has been completed on all the necessary processes and proof of concept such that development work and design work can progress at pace. However, the additional work set out in section 2 above has meant that our end-October 2016 release expectations for EDI users (those clinics submitting directly to the

HFEA) are unlikely to be met. A revised plan is now being developed and an update will be provided at the meeting.

3.2. That said we are engaging with EPRS providers (suppliers of patient reporting systems to around half of all clinics) and who have been notified of the development path to March 2017 (the latest acceptable implementation date) such that they are well prepared. They have access to the technical architecture that will underpin the system – which has met with general approval. We plan to maintain close levels of engagement to enable gradual adoption of the necessary ways to 'connect' to the Authority and maintain necessary security.

3.3. The Standardisation Committee for Care Information (part of NHS Digital) accreditation process for the 'UK ART dataset' and its implementation is on-track. It is an intensive process requiring the submission of substantial documentation considered by several committees but is a good external test of the thoroughness by which we have gone about our work.

3.4. Data migration and cleansing

- Data Cleansing and Migration work is a little behind schedule, also as a result of diversion of some resources. Data cleansing work remains primarily focused on dealing with 'severity 1 issues', with all issues expected to be resolved this month.

- If necessary, the data migration of the existing (cleansed) database to a new structure can still occur by October 2016. However, this issue will be further addressed alongside broader discussions about overall timeframes for the Programme.

- Arrangements to provide assurance services for the data migration are now in place. We have commissioned an expert in data migration to provide a review of all steps we have taken and will take prior to transfer. This is intended to provide a further check and balance to the Senior Responsible Owner, and in turn the Audit and Governance Committee.

- Whilst most clinics have been cooperative in fixing errors (and we worked hard to minimise the quantum of tasks they had to undertake) there are issues with some centres in failing to deal swiftly with our requests and we continue to monitor progress closely, escalating our action as necessary.

4.　Programme timelines and budget implications

4.1. As reported previously, a revised IfQ programme plan was finalised and signed off by the IfQ Programme Board in January 2016, in line with the overall £1.134m agreed by Authority.

4.2. This month variance is explained by an underspend originally forecasted for the security consultant. The underspend should balance in the upcoming moths once the work is completed and invoiced.

4.3. The current budget position (excluding VAT) for 2016/17 is as follows:

Total IfQ budget May 2016	Budget this F/Y	Planned spend	Actual to date	Monthly Variance
1,227,402	£619,025 (16/17)	£1054,946 (July 16)	£1036.530 (July 16)	£18,416 (The variance is due to the security, class consultants, IS contingency pot and data migration consultancy not being spent as forecasted.)

4.4. The spend to date has raised slightly comparing to the earned value, this is mainly due to the delay caused by the injunction and the impact on Beta completion..

Period	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16
Earned Value	53.8%	65.5%	70.0%	75%	79%	81%
Spend to date	64.8%	67.0%	74.1%	75%	87%	88%

5.   Recommendation

5.1. The Authority is asked to note:

- Progress since the last Authority meeting

- The potential for delay to Release 2 – the new data submission system

- Programme timelines and budget.