

F-2016-00004- clarification of data provided in previous FOI

26th January 2016

Summary of request

The Authority was asked for clarification on data that the HFEA had previously provided to an applicant

HFEA response

I have listed your clarification questions along with the HFEA's response which is in blue:

May I check with you that what we have called "other medical" is your category of "medical causes" i.e. linked to infertility.

It is

Does the HFEA "other unspecified" correspond to our serious disease category where we included cryo for cancer. There will be some overlap though as I understand the former category includes endometriosis.

The HFEA "other unspecified" category is expected to include cryopreservation for cancer but also for sexually transmissible diseases and for non-disease related items as a reason for infertility, all now reported to us as the generic category of "Other reason" on the patient registration. It also includes cryopreservation where the cause of infertility is listed as the "Avoidance of genetic disorder". When the other reason for infertility was previously able to be specified by clinics as "cancer" or "treatment for cancer" as, for example, between 2005 – 2007, there were 62 cycles involving cryopreservation due to cancer. Of these 62, 1 cycle also specified "ovulatory disorder" as an additional reason for infertility and 1 specified "unexplained".

Finally is it fair to assume that your "single women/same sex couples" is mostly single women, thus "non medical indications"

It is

So my FOI question is can you differentiate the single women /same sex couple category in 2 sets of numbers.

Providing separate data for single women and same sex couples requires re-extracting the data which is in the attached spreadsheet. Note that the data has changed since it was originally extracted in March 2015 due to the ongoing process of Register data cleansing as part of the IFQ programme.

Please note this data was extracted from the HFEA's data warehouse containing Register data as at 13 January 2016. Please note that the information in our database may be subject to change as licensed centres notify us of information that updates or corrects information they have previously supplied.

As you will see I have replaced all low numbers with a '<5' 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), and the information is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.