

Licence Committee Meeting

18 January 2007

21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3HF

MINUTES Item 3

Aberdeen Fertility Centre (0019) Interim Inspection Report

Members:

Clare Brown, Lay Member – Chair
Ruth Fasht, Lay Member
Chris Barratt, Head of the
Reproductive Biology and Genetics
Research Group at the University of
Birmingham

In Attendance:

Trish Davies, Director of Regulation
Frances Clift, Legal Adviser
Marion Witton, Head of Inspection
Claudia Lally, Committee Secretary

Observing:

Anna Carragher, Lay Member
Sally Cheshire, Lay Member
(observing via conference call)

Conflicts of Interest: members of the Committee declared that they had no conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

The following papers were considered by the Committee:

- papers for Licence Committee (34 pages)
- no papers were tabled.

1. The papers for this item were presented by Tony Knox, HFEA Inspector. Mr Knox informed the Committee that this centre has been licensed since 1992 and has a history of reasonable regulatory compliance. The recommendations of the inspection team have largely now been addressed by the centre.

2. Mr Knox drew the Committee's attention to the fact that one of the centre's dewars is not connected to the auto-dialler system. Mr Knox explained that the centre is hoping to upgrade all of its facilities, including its storage facilities, by June this year, in compliance with the European Tissue and Cells Directive. With this longer-term objective in mind the centre does not consider it necessary to comply in the short term with the requirements of Chair's letter CH(05)04 which specifies that all dewars must be linked to a low-nitrogen level alarm linked to an auto-dialler.

2. The Committee noted that the requirements of Chair's letter CH(05)04 should have been met by August 2005, and expressed their concern about this having not yet happened. The Committee agreed that the centre should conduct an assessment of the risk involved in this dewar being disconnected from the auto-dialler system and should submit this assessment to the Executive within two weeks of receiving these minutes. The Committee asked the Executive to ensure that this is received and to report back to the Committee if it is not received.

3. The Committee agreed that the centre's licence should continue with no additional conditions.

Signed..... Date.....
Clare Brown (Chair)