

Licence Committee Meeting

28 January 2008
21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3HF

MINUTES Item 5

Louis Hughes (0011) Interim Inspection

Members of the Committee:

Jennifer Hunt, Lay Member – Chair
David Archard, Lay Member
Sally Cheshire, Lay Member
Hossam Abdalla, Director of Lister
Fertility Centre

Present via teleconference phone:
Neva Haites, Professor of Medical
Genetics, University of Aberdeen

In Attendance:

Stephanie Sullivan, Interim Head of
Inspection
Claudia Lally, Committee Secretary

Providing Legal Advice to the Committee:

Stephen Hocking, Beachcroft LLP
Solicitors

Observing:

Ellie Suthers and Carol Horner, HFEA
Inspectors
Simon Achonu, Beachcroft LLP (trainee)

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 (26 pages)
- no papers were tabled.

1. The papers for this item were presented by Andrew Leonard, HFEA Inspector. Dr Leonard informed the Committee that this centre has been licensed since 1992 and supplies donor sperm to fertility clinics throughout the UK. He summarised the main findings of the inspection report, including the areas of concern summarised at pages 6 and 7 of the report.

2. The Committee noted and endorsed the actions required by the inspection team. In particular the Committee endorsed the requirement that the centre provide sperm donors with written information including information about arrangements for counselling provision. The Committee agreed that the issues

raised by donating sperm as a known donor are too important to be imparted only in a verbal briefing. The centre must, therefore, put effective procedures in place to ensure that donors are given written information.

3. The Committee considered the issue of reimbursement of donors raised at pages 12 of the inspection report. The Committee noted the finding of the inspection report that the centre has been offering to pay donors a flat rate of £20 for their donation and that donors sign to state that the sum constitutes reasonable reimbursement of their expenses and money lost through taking time off work. However, the Committee agreed that they expected immediate compliance with Chair's letter CH(06)01:

1. Directions on giving and receiving money or other benefits in respect of any supply of gametes or embryos.

Donors will be able to claim reasonable expenses and compensation for earnings lost in connection with donation. This will replace the £15 'flat rate' permitted at present.

The Committee also agreed to remind the centre of the guidance in the Code of Practice at G.4.11.1:

Centres procuring gametes or embryos from donor should maintain a central log of all expenses and compensation paid to donors containing information about the date, amount, recipient and reasons for each payment.

The Committee agreed that with immediate effect the centre should cease paying a flat rate to donors and that SOPs must be put in place to reflect that this has stopped. The Committee requested that this issue is followed by the Executive.

4. The Committee asked the Executive to check that all the required actions from the report are addressed in the timescales indicated. They also asked the Executive to monitor progress in respect of these actions and to report back to a Licence Committee if not satisfied by the response of the centre. They agreed that the centre's licence should continue without additional conditions.

Signed..... Date.....
Jennifer Hunt (Chair)