

HFEA Licence Committee Meeting 10 June 2009

21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3HF

Minutes – Item 6

Belfast Regional Fertility Centre (0077) – Interim inspection report

Members of the Committee:	Committee Secretary:
Anna Carragher (lay)	Kristen Veblen
Rebekah Dundas (lay)	
Emily Jackson (lay)	Legal Adviser:
William Ledger (clinician)	Sarah Ellson, Field Fisher, Waterhouse
	Observers:
	Brandon Welsh, HFEA
	Charlotte Augst, HFEA

Declarations 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 (48 pages)
- no tabled papers.

The Committee also had before it:

- HFEA Protocol for the Conduct of Licence Committee Meetings and Hearings
- 7th edition of the HFEA Code of Practice
- Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended)
- HFEA (Licence Committees and Appeals) Regulations 1991 (SI 1991/1889)
- Decision Trees for Granting and Renewing Licences and Considering Requests to Vary a Licence; and
- Guidance for members of Authority and Committees on the handling of conflicts of interest approved by the Authority on 21st January 2009.

1. The Committee noted that this centre had been licensed since 1992 and offered treatment to both NHS and privately funded patients including IVF, ICSI, egg sharing and egg donation.
2. The Committee considered the papers, which included the inspection report and the case made by the Centre for the lifting of the current condition on the Centre.
3. The Committee noted that the inspection took place on 26 February 2009 and that no areas for improvement were identified in relation to quality of service, premises and the equipment and information and that some improvements were identified in the course of the inspection relating to the Centre's organisation and laboratory and clinical processes.
4. The Committee noted the recommendations of the executive and endorsed the associated timescales and noted the response of the PR outlining action taken and planned.
5. The Committee considered the request made by the PR to lift the condition on the licence restricting activity at the Centre and requested legal advice.
6. The Legal Adviser advised that, subject to the Committee determining that it was in possession of sufficient information, it was empowered to lift the condition if it was satisfied that it was no longer necessary
7. The Committee noted that pursuant to the independent assessment in July 2008 the Centre's activities were restricted to 3 cycles per week per experienced member of the embryology team and 2 cycles per experienced locum and trainee embryologist.
8. The Committee noted that the Centre had recruited additional pre-registrant embryologists who had or were due to start soon.
9. Additionally, the Committee noted that the Centre's licence was due to expire in February 2010, so there would be an opportunity, at the renewal inspection to review the situation if the condition were to be lifted.

The Committee's Decision

10. The Committee determined that it was in receipt of sufficient and satisfactory information to make a decision and decided to lift the condition restricting the activity of the Centre. The Committee was satisfied that the

condition was no longer necessary and that the Centre should be expected to manage its own workflows safely.

11. The Committee further decided to continue the licence with no additional conditions.

Signed..... *Anna Carragher* Date..... *25.6.2009*

Anna Carragher (Chair)