

HFEA Executive Licensing Panel Meeting

8 February 2013

Finsbury Tower, 103-105 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8HF

Minutes – Item 1

Centre 0044 – (The Centre for Reproductive and Genetic Health) – Renewal Inspection Report

Members of the Panel:	Committee Secretary:
Juliet Tizzard, Head of Policy & Communications (Chair)	Neil McComb
Joanne Anton, Policy Manager	Observing:
Jasper Squire, Computer Programmer	Rebecca Loveys

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

The Panel also had before it:

- HFEA Protocol for the Conduct of Meetings of Executive Licensing Panel
- 8th edition of the HFEA Code of Practice
- Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended)
- Decision trees for granting and renewing licences and considering requests to vary a licence (including the PGD decision tree)
- Guidance for members of Authority and Committees on the handling of conflicts of interest approved by the Authority on 21 January 2009.
- Guidance on periods for which new or renewed licences should be granted
- Standing Orders and Instrument of Delegation
- Indicative Sanctions Guidance
- HFEA Direction 0008 (where relevant), and any other relevant Directions issued by the Authority
- Guide to Licensing
- Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- Policy on Publication of Authority and Committee Papers

Consideration of Application

1. The Panel noted that this centre has been licensed by the HFEA since 1991 and offers IVF, ICSI and IUI treatment. In relation to activity levels, this is a large centre.
2. The Panel noted that the centre currently has a 5-year licence which is due to expire on 31 March 2013.
3. The Panel noted that in the period 1 May 2011 to 30 April 2012, HFEA-held register data shows that the centre's success rates are in line with or higher than the national averages for IVF and ICSI.
4. The Panel noted that in 2011, the centre reported 305 cycles of partner insemination with 49 pregnancies. This equates to a pregnancy rate of 16%, which is consistent with the national average.
5. The Panel noted that, at the time of the inspection, there were one critical, nine major and seven other areas of non-compliance.
6. The Panel noted that, since the inspection, the PR has provided evidence to the Inspectorate that three of the major areas of non-compliance and six of the other areas of non-compliance have been addressed.
7. The Panel noted that the PR has given a commitment to implement the one critical, six major and one other areas of non-compliance that remain outstanding within the prescribed timeframes highlighted in the report. In particular, the Panel noted the areas on non-compliance relating to data submissions, multiple births and the security of the premises.
8. The Panel noted that it is statistically unlikely that the centre will meet the HFEA year three target rate for multiple births of 15%. The Panel noted the importance the HFEA places on these targets and urged the centre to monitor continually the effectiveness of its multiple births minimisation strategy as suggested by the Inspectorate.
9. The Panel noted the critical area of non-compliance relating to the security of the premises, in particular that several access points into the unit were found to be insecure, potentially giving unrestricted access to sensitive areas. The Panel also noted that, whilst steps had been taken by the PR to address the recommendations made in the inspection report, there were still actions to be completed following the email from the PR on 20 December.

Decision

10. Whilst the Panel acknowledged the constructive engagement from the PR on this issue, and the work already done to remedy the problems, it was concerned that, according to the remarks in the inspection report,

the Inspectorate was not yet satisfied that the outstanding actions had been completed and that the premises require further actions to make them suitable.

11. The Panel therefore adjourned the consideration of the renewal of the centre's licence until further information could be obtained about whether the outstanding actions relating to the critical non-compliance had been completed.

Signed:
Juliet Tizzard (Chair)



Date:

19 February 2013