

# Executive Licensing Panel - minutes

## Centre 0011 (London Sperm Bank)

### Special Directions to Permit Continuation of Licenced Activity

Tuesday, 12 February 2019

HFEA, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BU

Panel members	Clare Ettinghausen (Chair) Anna Coundley Laura Riley	Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs Policy Manager Head of Regulatory Policy
Members of the Executive	Bernice Ash	Secretary
External adviser		
Observers	Catherine Burwood Moya Berry Sandrine Oakes Nicola Lawrence	Senior Governance Manager Committee Officer (Induction) Inspector (Induction) Inspector (Induction)

## Declarations of interest

- Members of the panel declared that they had no conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

## The panel had before it:

- 9th edition of the HFEA Code of Practice
- Standard licensing and approvals pack for committee members.

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## 1. Background

- 1.1. The London Sperm Bank (LSB) has held a storage only licence with the HFEA since 2010, when they took over the former 'Louis Hughes' licensed centre. The centre is part of the London Women's Clinic (LWC) group, under the umbrella of JD Healthcare. The centre is now mainly a storage and distribution centre for donor sperm, providing sperm to clinics within the LWC group, and other fertility clinics within the UK and internationally. Donor recruitment for the LWC group now takes place at The Bridge Centre (0070). LSB also imports sperm from Seattle Sperm Bank (SSB) in the United States of America and is in the process of applying for an Importing Tissue Establishment (ITE) certificate to allow this to continue.
- 1.2. The panel noted that the centre's current licence is due to expire on 31 March 2019.
- 1.3. The panel noted that renewal licence inspection visit occurred on 9 October 2018 and one area of concern was noted regarding the import of donor sperm from SSB. Specifically, whether the compensation given to these overseas donors is compliant with the requirements of General Direction 0001. The Person Responsible (PR) is engaging fully with the executive and is currently seeking further evidence of compensation arrangements from SSB.
- 1.4. The panel noted that due to the complexity of this non-compliance, the renewal application will be considered by Licence Committee. The earliest meeting for this to be considered is 7 March 2019, which does not allow sufficient time for the licensing administrative process to conclude prior to the expiry of the centre's licence.
- 1.5. The panel noted that the PR has confirmed that LSB will not import donor sperm from SSB until this non-compliance has been resolved to the satisfaction of the executive.

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## 2. Consideration of the application for Special Directions

- 2.1. The panel considered the papers, which included an executive summary and licensing minutes for the past three years.
- 2.2. The panel noted that the Executive recommends that Special Directions are issued to the PR under Section 24 (5A) (b) of the HF&E Act 1990 (as amended) to permit the continuation of licensed activity from 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019 to enable the renewal application to be considered by the Licence Committee and allow sufficient time for the licensing administrative process.

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## 3. Decision

- 3.1. The panel endorsed the Executive's recommendation that Special Directions are issued to the PR under Section 24 (5A) (b) of the HF&E Act 1990 (as amended) to permit the continuation of licensed activity from 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019 to enable the renewal application to be considered by the Licence Committee and allow sufficient time for the licensing administrative process.

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## 4. Chair's signature

- 4.1. I confirm this is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**Signature**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clare Ettinghausen', written in a cursive style.

**Name**

Clare Ettinghausen

**Date**

15 February 2019