

Executive Licensing Panel - minutes

Centre 0352 (Future Health Biobank)

Licence Extension application

Tuesday, 5 May 2020

HFEA Teleconference Meeting

Panel members	Clare Ettinghausen (Chair) Anna Coundley Yvonne Akinmodun	Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs Policy Manager Head of Human Resources
Members of the Executive	Bernice Ash	Secretary
External adviser		
Observers	Catherine Burwood	Licensing Manager

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.

1. Consideration of application

- 1.1. The panel considered the papers, which included a completed application form and Executive summary.
- 1.2. The panel noted that Future Health Biobank is located in the Faraday Building on Nottingham Science Park and has held a storage only licence since September 2016.
- 1.3. In response to UK measures to contain and mitigate the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus, a decision was taken by the HFEA to suspend all inspections of licensed premises until at least 31 August 2020.
- 1.4. The panel noted that HFEA licensed premises should be inspected every two years (Schedule 3B paragraph (4)(1)). The suspension of inspections impacts on the Authority's legal duties to carry out its regulatory functions. This action has been taken with the agreement of the Authority and is in line with other national regulators.
- 1.5. The panel noted that the HFEA normally issues licences for treatment and/or storage for a duration of up to four years but can issue a licence for five years (Schedule 2 paragraph 1(5) of the HF&E Act 1990).
- 1.6. In light of the current suspension of inspections, due to Covid-19, centre 0352 has applied to extend their licence by one year as their current licence expires on 15 September 2020.
- 1.7. The panel noted the centre was last inspected on 24 April 2018 and recommendations were made in relation to two 'other' areas of non-compliance. The Person Responsible (PR) provided evidence that all of the recommendations were implemented.
- 1.8. The panel noted that a desk based assessment is not required for this application in line with the 'Procedure for risk based inspection during the COVID- 19 pandemic: Licence Extension, Desk Based Assessment and postponement of inspections'.
- 1.9. The panel noted that the executive is satisfied that;
 - the PR has discharged their responsibility under section 17 of the Act;
 - the centre has followed professional body guidance to suspend all non-essential treatments in response to Covid-19;
 - the centre continues to manage the storage of gametes, embryos and patient records appropriately during this period;
 - there have been no serious (Grade A) incidents since the last inspection;
 - the centre has suitable procedures in place to continue to support patients.
- 1.10. The executive recommends the approval of the application to vary the centre's storage only licence, extending the duration to 15 September 2021, without additional conditions.

2. Decision

- 2.1. The panel was satisfied that;
 - the PR has discharged their responsibility under section 17 of the Act;
 - the centre has followed professional body guidance to suspend all non-essential treatments in response to Covid-19;
 - the centre continues to manage the storage of gametes, embryos and patient records appropriately during this period;
 - there have been no serious (Grade A) incidents since the last inspection;
 - the centre has suitable procedures in place to continue to support patients.

- 2.2.** The panel endorsed the executive's recommendation to vary the centre's storage only licence, extending the duration to 15 September 2021, without additional conditions.
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3. Chair's signature

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

Signature



Name

Clare Ettinghausen

Date

11 May 2020