

Executive Licensing Panel Minutes

Centre 0153 (Homerton Fertility Centre)

Special Directions to permit continuation of licensed activity

Date: 24 August 2021

Venue: HFEA Teleconference Meeting

Attendees: Clare Ettinghausen (Chair) Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs
Joanne Anton Head of Policy (Job-share)
Kathleen Sarsfield-Watson Communications Manager

Executive: Bernice Ash Secretary

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.
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1. Background

- 1.1. The panel noted that Homerton Fertility Centre is located in London and has held a treatment and storage licence with the HFEA since 1995. The centre provides a full range of fertility services including the storage of gametes and embryos.
- 1.2. The panel noted that the centre's current licence is due to expire on 2 October 2021.
- 1.3. The panel noted that, a licence renewal inspection was conducted at the centre on 20 April 2021; the inspection team had serious concerns regarding surgical procedures and adverse incident reporting procedures.
- 1.4. The panel noted that there has been a significant delay in writing the inspection report, due to the requirement for several management review meetings and its complex nature.
- 1.5. The panel noted the report of the centre's renewal inspection is due to be considered by the Licence Committee (LC) on 11 November 2021. As the centre's current licence will expire on 2 October 2021, there will be insufficient time for the licensing administrative process to conclude prior the expiry of the licence; therefore Special Directions are requested.

2. Consideration of the application for Special Directions

- 2.1. The panel considered the papers, which included an executive update.
- 2.2. The panel noted the executive's recommendation that, to allow time for the administrative process with regards to centre's renewal licence to be completed, Special Directions are issued to the Person Responsible (PR) at the centre, under Section 24 (5A) (b) of the HF&E Act 1990 (as amended), to permit the continuation of licensed activity at the centre from 2 October 2021 to 2 April 2022.

3. Decision

- 3.1. The panel endorsed the executive's recommendation that Special Directions are issued to the PR at the centre, under Section 24 (5A) (b) of the HF&E Act 1990 (as amended), to permit the continuation of licensed activity at the centre from 2 October 2021 to 2 April 2022.

4. Chair's signature

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

Signature



Name

Clare Ettinghausen

Date

31 August 2021