

F-2015-00219- freezing and thawing of oocytes in the UK

6th August 2015

Summary of request

The Authority was asked several questions relating to data on the freezing and thawing of oocytes in the UK.

HFEA response

1. A list of centres that are licensed to freeze and/or vitrify eggs

Please find this information in the tab 1. of the attached document. Note that the information has only been included back to 2011. To collect the data previous to this period would require a manual search of individual licences. The Authority estimates that the cost of complying with this request would exceed the 'appropriate limit' set out in the Freedom of Information Act (2000). This limit is £450 and for the purposes of estimating cost, staff time is calculated at notional rate of £25 per hour. As such this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 12 of the Act.

2. The number of centres that were licensed to freeze and/or vitrify eggs per year since 1993

See above.

3. A list of centres that have reported freezing and/or vitrifying eggs

Please find this information in tab 2. of the attached document

4. When and where was the first baby born from a frozen egg in the UK?

As there is a significant possibility that this information, when combined with other information to which you may reasonably be expected to have access, could lead to the identification of a person to whom the HFEA owes a duty of confidentiality. To disclose this information in these circumstances may therefore result in a breach of the confidentiality provisions of section 33A of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended), and the information is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

5. How many patients and frozen eggs stored per year since 2001?

Please find this information in tab 3. of the attached document

6. A list of centres that have reported thawing eggs (excluding imported eggs)

Please find this information in tab 4. of the attached document

7. How many patients, frozen egg cycles, clinical pregnancies, and live births per centre per year since 2001 (excluding imported eggs)?

Please find this information in tab 5. of the attached document

8. The average age of women storing oocytes per year since 2001

Please find this information in tab 6. of the attached document. Please note that this data include any cycle during which eggs were stored.

9. The average age of women using frozen eggs per year since 2001 (excluding imported eggs and split into own/donation)

Please find this information in tab 7. of the attached document.