

PE2146/A: Allow the use of privately sourced donor eggs in NHS funded IVF treatment

Scottish Government written submission, 27 March 2025

Thank you for asking for the Scottish Government's view on public petition [PE2146: Allow the use of privately sourced donor eggs in NHS funded IVF treatment](#) calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to allow couples and individuals to purchase altruistically donated eggs from private clinics for use in NHS funded IVF treatment and instruct NHS Scotland to create a clear clinical pathway to support those using private donor eggs.

This response outlines Scottish Government expectations of NHS Boards who provide fertility treatment to couples requiring donor eggs as part of their NHS treatment.

The Scottish Government expects NHS Boards to meet the needs of couples who are eligible for NHS fertility treatment and require donor gametes (eggs and sperm) for that treatment. We have always been clear that couples who are eligible for NHS fertility treatment should not pay for any aspect of their treatment, and this includes the purchase and use of donor gametes.

You may be interested to know that the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland developed and delivered national donor gamete campaigns in 2021, 2022 and 2023. The aim of the campaigns was to ensure that donor gametes are available for those patients throughout Scotland who require them for their NHS fertility treatment.

The 4 NHS Assisted Conception Units continue to run local campaigns using the Scottish Government/NHS Scotland resources.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has advised that couples who require donor eggs for their NHS fertility treatment have the option of waiting for an altruistic egg donor to become available or using eggs from a known egg donor. If a couple uses eggs from a known egg donor, they will be treated within the same timeframe as those using their own gametes. The current wait time for these couples is approximately eight to nine months. Couples who require an altruistic egg donor may wait between three to four years for treatment. This wait time can change depending on donor availability and we are aware that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is planning several campaigns this year to recruit egg and sperm donors, which will hopefully reduce the waiting times.

I hope the Committee find this information helpful.

Improving Health and Wellbeing Division