

F-2015-00216- questions on embryo research

3rd August 2015

Summary of request

The Authority has been asked for answers to several questions on embryo research.

HFEA response

- 1) How many embryos are currently in storage in the UK?

The HFEA are unable to calculate how many embryos are currently in storage because centres are not required to report the removal from storage of embryos donated for the purpose of research. As such the HFEA do not hold this information and it is therefore exempt from disclosure.

- 2) How long on average is an embryo frozen before being used?

Year of treatment

Average Storage prior to use (months)

2009

16.14

2010

16.11

2011

15.91

2012

16.16

2013

16.08

- 3) What is the longest time an embryo has been frozen and resulted in a pregnancy?

13 Years.

4) How many babies have been born in the UK as a result of embryo donation in 2014 and so far in 2015?

The HFEA does not release treatment and outcome information on which it has not conducted a rigorous process of verification (in concert with the sector). As the HFEA has not conducted this process for outcome data from 2014 or 2015 this information has not been included.