

Minutes of the Authority meeting on 9 July 2025 held at 2 Redman Place, London

Members present	Julia Chain (Chair) Tim Child Frances Flinter Tom Fowler Zeynep Gurtin Alex Kafetz	Alison McTavish Geeta Nargund Catharine Seddon Rosamund Scott Anya Sizer Stephen Troup Christine Watson
Apologies	Graham James Rachel Cutting (Director of Compliance & Information)	
Observers	Steve Pugh, Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) (online) Amy Parsons, Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) (online)	
Staff in attendance	Peter Thompson (Chief Executive) Clare Ettinghausen (Director of Strategy & Corporate Affairs) Tom Skrinar (Director of Finance & Resources) Sophie Tuhey (Head of Planning and Governance) Shabbir Qureshi (Risk and Business Planning Manager) Amanda Evans (Head of Research and Intelligence – items 8 and 9) Kazuyo Machiyama (Senior Research Manager – items 8 and 9) Alison Margrave (Board Governance Manager)	

Members

There were 13 members at the meeting – 8 lay and 5 professional members.

1. Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

- 1.1.** The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Authority members and HFEA staff to the meeting.
- 1.2.** The Chair also welcomed observers and stated that the meeting was being recorded in line with previous meetings and for reasons of transparency. The recording would be made available on the HFEA website to allow members of the public to view it.
- 1.3.** Declarations of interest were made by:
 - Geeta Nargund (Pro Chancellor at Portsmouth University)
 - Anya Sizer (freelance advisory work within the fertility sector)
 - Stephen Troup (consultancy work within the fertility sector)
 - Tim Child (consultancy work within the fertility sector overseas)
 - Alex Kafetz (non-executive director (Board Member) of the [Care Quality Commission](#))

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- 2.1.** The Chair informed the meeting that a proposed amendment had been received for minute 5.33 to amend the wording “outstanding good performance” to “consistently very good performance”. This amendment was agreed by the Authority.
- 2.2.** The amended minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2025 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and could be signed by the Chair.

- 2.3.** The Chair informed members that there were no matters arising from the previous meeting.
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3. Chair and Chief Executive's report

- 3.1.** The Chair gave an overview of her engagement with key stakeholders and her attendance at decision-making committees of the Authority.
- 3.2.** The Chair informed members that together with the Chief Executive she attended the annual accountability meeting with the HFEA's sponsor team in May and spoke of the positive relationship that the HFEA has with the Department.
- 3.3.** At the beginning of June, the Chair had attended the Scientific and Clinical Advances Advisory Committee (SCAAC) meeting and had also participated in the shortlisting exercise for the SCAAC external adviser vacancy who has expertise in the use of artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data in healthcare or biological science/research.
- 3.4.** The Chair informed the Authority that she and the Chief Executive had met with representatives from the Fertilis Group of clinics, a group of private clinics. She spoke of the positive ways in which the HFEA engages with the sector and this meeting is just one example of this engagement.
- 3.5.** The Chief Executive informed the Authority that he had met with the [Regulatory Horizons Council](#) (RHC) to discuss their work on IVGs. He explained that the RHC is an independent expert committee that identifies the implications of technological innovation, and provide government with impartial, expert advice on the regulatory reform required to support its rapid and safe introduction.

Decision

- 3.6.** Members noted the Chair and Chief Executive's report.
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4. Committee Chairs' reports

- 4.1.** The Chair introduced the report and invited Committee Chairs to add any other comments to the presented report.
- 4.2.** The Statutory Approvals Committee (SAC) Chair (Frances Flinter) stated that the committee continues to meet monthly with full agendas, often considering complicated and challenging issues. As detailed in the paper, on occasion it has been necessary to adjourn decision making to gather further information. The SAC Chair praised the work of the staff who manage the workload of this committee.
- 4.3.** The Audit and Governance Committee (AGC) Chair (Catharine Seddon) informed members that the AGC held its last meeting on 17 June 2025 and had considered the draft Annual Report and Accounts and had recommended that these be signed. The committee also received the management letter from the auditors which gave the HFEA a clean bill of health. The committee had endorsed Alex Kafetz as the committee's Information Security lead for working with the Executive. The committee had discussed the ways of working with GIAA and agreed plans to close outstanding audit recommendations. The committee had discussed the proposals for the assessment under the new Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF) DSPT. Additionally, the committee had considered the Strategic Risk Register and the new HR strategy.

- 4.4.** The Scientific and Clinical Advances Advisory Committee (SCAAC) Chair (Tim Child) informed the Authority that the committee had last met on 9 June 2025. They had considered and approved an application for platelet-rich-plasma (PRP) to be added to the HFEA's [rated treatment add-on-list](#). The SCAAC Chair explained to members the committee's recommendation to amend the definition of treatment add-ons to include tests. The committee had also discussed the impact of the microbiome on fertility and fertility treatment outcomes, as well as health outcomes for ART patients, including gestational surrogates and egg donors and relevant public health developments and research findings. He reported that the HFEA had held its annual horizon scanning meeting at ESHRE 2025 and an update from this will be brought to the September Authority meeting. The SCAAC Chair also informed members that two new external advisors had been appointed to the committee: Asif Muneer, an urological surgeon and andrologist; and Sarah Martins da Silva, a consultant gynaecologist and reproductive medicine researcher. Recruitment is ongoing for an advisor with expertise in the use of artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data in healthcare or biological science/research.
- 4.5.** The Licence Committee Deputy Chair (Alison McTavish) informed the Authority that the committee had last met on 16 June 2025 and had considered the interim inspection report of the Homerton Fertility Centre, a centre that has been under considerable regulatory scrutiny in recent years, including a 5-month period of suspension in 2024. The committee had been pleased that the PR of this centre is engaging well with the HFEA inspectorate. The interim inspection report was very positive and found no areas of practice that required improvement, so the Licence Committee was able to continue this centre's licence.
- 4.6.** The HFEA Chair stated that this was a very encouraging report from the Licence Committee and acknowledged the support which the HFEA had provided for this centre to improve its work.
- 4.7.** The Chair thanked all Committee Chairs for the reports and expressed sincere thanks to the committee members and the staff who service the various committees for their hard work. The Chair stated that committee papers and minutes are published on the [HFEA](#) website.

Decision

- 4.8.** The Authority agreed the proposal from SCAAC to amend the definition of treatment add-ons to include tests, as set out below (new proposed wording underlined):

Treatment add-ons are optional non-essential treatments and tests that may be offered in addition to such proven fertility treatment. The HFEA provides information on add-ons that meet the following criteria:

- *Additional treatments and tests (to the core treatment e.g. IVF or IUI), that are being offered to the general patient population in licensed fertility clinics in the UK,*
- *where there are published scientific studies which claim to demonstrate that the treatment add-on improves the chances of having a baby or other treatment outcomes rated by the HFEA; but*
- *where evidence of effectiveness for the use of the treatment in a clinical setting is lacking or absent; and*
- *where patients need unbiased information about the effectiveness and risks of this test or treatment.*

- 4.9.** Members noted the Committee Chairs' reports.

Action

- 4.10.** Executive to implement the agreed changes to the definition of treatment add-ons.
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5. Performance report

- 5.1.** The Chief Executive introduced the performance report and reminded members of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which are used to measure performance.
- 5.2.** The Chief Executive stated that the HFEA's performance across all 19 KPIs had been strong in May, with 12 indicators rated Green, three Neutral and four rated Red. For those KPIs which are rated red there is a particular reason for this, rather than a structural issue.
- 5.3.** The Chief Executive referred to the HR KPIs and commented that there had been a small increase in staff sickness, and this can be contributed to seasonal illnesses. The Chief Executive reported that the issue of long-term sick leave will reduce due to ill health retirement being approved for a member of staff.
- 5.4.** Whilst there has also been an increase in staff turnover, this is within the bottom end range of the HFEA's target and is still manageable. The Chief Executive remarked that as a small ALB with limited scope for promotion it is inevitable that staff will move on from their employment with the HFEA to seek promotion. He informed the Authority that the new HR strategy was presented to the AGC in June 2025, and an all-staff event is planned for next week.

Compliance and Information

- 5.5.** The Chief Executive presented the Compliance and Information KPIs and informed the Authority that the HFEA measures the outcome and process for licensing. The KPIs for 'inspection reports to committee' and 'end-to-end-licensing' are both green with the targets being met.
- 5.6.** The KPI for 'inspection reports to PR' was red. The Chief Executive explained that these delays were for genuine reasons such as a complex report, or further engagement with PR required, and assured the Authority that there are no structural issues for concern.
- 5.7.** The Chief Executive reported that 16 PGT-M applications were received in May. All applications due in May were processed within target, with an average processing time of 52 days. The Chief Executive explained in detail the amount of work required to process PGT-M applications.
- 5.8.** A member questioned whether the high number of PGT-M applications could be linked to media stories championing PGT-M. The Chief Executive responded that PGT-M applications fluctuate and is a demand led process, the HFEA does not solicit applications; these are driven by clinics.
- 5.9.** A member commented that 5-10 years ago, PGT-M was used only for the more common genetic disorders such as Huntington Disease or Cystic Fibrosis, but due to developments in genomics it is now possible to diagnose more complex disorders. There is also an increased take-up of carrier testing before treatment which could also contribute to the increase in PGT-M applications.
- 5.10.** In response to a question on whether there was any learning from the extensive QA that was needed for a few inspection reports, the Chief Executive explained the QA system and the nuances of some of the recent complex cases.
- 5.11.** The Authority was informed that the three Opening the Register (OTR) KPIs were green, with 171 OTRs being processed and a reduction in the waiting list being achieved. The Chief Executive

reported that a higher number of OTRs were received and there were no specific reason for this increase.

- 5.12.** In response to a question, the Chief Executive stated that OTR applications are broadly following expectations, with a steady increase. It is hoped that the investment in the new IT systems and increased staffing levels will help to ensure that applications are manageable, but in the future it may be necessary to increase resources.

Strategy and Corporate Affairs

- 5.13.** The Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs highlighted some of the main points arising from the [Fertility Trends](#) report which was published last month, and spoke of the high media interest in this report. Over 200 pieces of individual media coverage were achieved, with every national outlet covering the publication. The 'one child in every classroom' headline was used across much of the media coverage. The Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs stated that this coverage highlighted that the HFEA's data is viewed as accurate and informative.
- 5.14.** The Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs spoke of the media requests regarding licensing questions, private sperm donors and egg donation. The Authority was informed that there was a short debate in Westminster Hall on egg donation and related issues.
- 5.15.** The Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs stated that work has started on the annual 'State of the Fertility Sector' report, which is published in Autumn, reporting on compliance, non-compliance, incidents and safety of the fertility sector.
- 5.16.** The Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs informed the Authority that the KPIs for Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and Parliamentary Questions (PQs) are both green, with the targets for response times being met. Authority members were informed that the range of FOI requests are increasing in complexity.
- 5.17.** The Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs stated that the Licensing team is working well and managing the workload. The process for PGT-M applications was explained and the level of work across different teams highlighted.
- 5.18.** In response to a question regarding the dip in social media usage, the Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs stated that Communications team may take the decision to pause or delay pushing out social media interactions due to other events happening nationally and internationally. Social media usage was expected to increase in June due to the media interest in the Fertility Trends report.
- 5.19.** The Authority congratulated the Executive for the media coverage obtained for the Fertility Trends report, with members stating that the headline had been extremely good and helped to raise awareness. In response to a question, the Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs confirmed that the HFEA can track how long users stay on HFEA website pages and stated that after each major publication there is a lessons learnt exercise conducted which helps shape future work.
- 5.20.** In response to a question regarding proactive media activity around routine publications and using the HFEA's authoritative voice, the Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs commented that these types of activities are planned under the "use our voice" section of the new [HFEA Strategy for 2025-2028](#).

Finance, Planning and Technology

- 5.21.** The Director of Finance, Planning and Technology informed members that the HFEA's business plan for 2025-26 has been completed and the final version has been shared with DHSC for publication.
- 5.22.** The Strategic Risk Register (SRR) had a grass roots review conducted in line with the new strategy for 2025-2028. This was reviewed by the Audit and Governance Committee in June 2025 and is brought to the Authority for consideration later in the agenda.
- 5.23.** Together with the Chair, a review of the Board Effectiveness documents has taken place and further work on these will be undertaken.
- 5.24.** The Director of Finance, Planning and Technology reported that the Phoenix Programme is progressing well and is within time and budget tolerance. There continues to be good engagement across the teams within the HFEA in designing and testing the new systems and tools.
- 5.25.** The Director of Finance, Planning and Technology informed the Authority that the team had been working closely with an external consultant regarding testing and developing the HFEA's business continuity plan. An exercise with the Senior Management Team has been held and a further activity is planned for the forthcoming all-staff meeting.
- 5.26.** The Director of Finance, Planning and Technology spoke of the hard work across the IT and Information Governance teams to gather all the necessary evidence which is required to support the new Cyber Assessment Framework aligned DSPT requirements.
- 5.27.** The Director of Finance, Planning and Technology stated that it has been an extremely busy time for the Finance Team in preparing the annual accounts, especially responding to National Audit Office (NAO) requests regarding PRISM data. He thanked both the IT and Finance teams for their work in this regard.
- 5.28.** The Director of Finance, Planning and Technology referred to the draft annual accounts which the Authority will consider at later agenda item and stated that the bottom line for 2024-45 is a surplus of £475,000. This position is higher than expected due to several accounting adjustments made during the audit. He commented that it is too early to have a clear picture of the 2025-26 position and a full Q1 review is currently taking place.
- 5.29.** The Director of Finance, Planning and Technology informed the Authority that the extent of work that was required to support the NAO audit has put pressure on the Finance team, although this is expected to reduce now that the audit has been completed.
- 5.30.** In response to a question, the Director of Finance, Planning and Technology informed the Authority that the KPI regarding payment of invoices is on value rather than volume. There were a few large invoices relating to the Phoenix Programme which needed checking by both IT and Finance, so this delayed approval. He explained further the aged debt and the work being undertaken to collect this.

Decision

- 5.31.** Members noted the performance report.

6. Publication of the HFEA Annual Report and Accounts for 2024/25

- 6.1.** The Director of Finance, Planning and Technology introduced the paper and informed the Authority that the Audit and Governance Committee had considered the draft Annual Report and Accounts at their June 2025 meeting and had agreed that subject to any NAO changes, the Accounting Officer could sign the Annual Report and Accounts.
- 6.2.** The Director of Finance, Planning and Technology explained the engagement of the NAO and KPMG in the preparation of this document and that the audit was completed without any qualifications. It is anticipated that the Comptroller and Auditor General will sign the accounts shortly which would allow them to be laid in Parliament before recess.
- 6.3.** As defined in the HFEA's standing orders, approval is now sought from the Authority for the Accounting Officer to sign the Annual Report and Accounts. The Director of Finance, Planning and Technology stated that a small number of typographical errors had been identified and these will be corrected.

Decision

- 6.4.** The Authority agreed that subject to NAO changes, the Accounting Officer could sign the Annual Report and Accounts.

Action

- 6.5.** Executive to continue liaising with NAO to lay the HFEA Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25 in Parliament before recess.

7. Strategic Risk Register

- 7.1.** The Chair introduced this item by informing the Authority that when a new strategy is approved, a grass roots review of the Strategic Risk Register (SRR) is conducted to ensure that it aligns with the new strategy. The Chair reminded the Authority that the SRR is brought to the Authority twice a year for review.
- 7.2.** The Risk and Business Planning Manager introduced the paper and informed the Authority of the process of the grass roots review of the SRR.
- 7.3.** The Risk and Business Planning Manager explained that the existing categories for the SRR, as per the Orange Book, have been maintained. The Senior Management Team (SMT) had considered the strategic risks facing the HFEA in light of the current environment and these key risks are recorded in the SRR.
- 7.4.** The Risk and Business Planning Manager informed the Authority that the SRR had been presented to the Audit and Governance Committee (AGC) in June 2025 and after discussions, had been agreed by the AGC.
- 7.5.** The AGC Chair informed the Authority that the AGC had welcomed the zero-based review conducted by the SMT and this has made the SRR an active, dynamic management tool.
- 7.6.** Several members congratulated the HFEA team for the clear, easy to read presentation of the SRR.

- 7.7.** In response to a question, the Director of Finance, Planning and Technology commented that the majority of the DSPT focuses on managing cyber risk, and where appropriate the HFEA seeks external advice on managing these risks. A member commented that the HFEA would also be following the National Cyber Security Centre advice, which is attuned to cross governmental advice.
- 7.8.** In closing the discussion, the Chair recorded the Authority's thanks to the SMT and the HFEA team for all their hard work.

Decision

- 7.9.** The Authority noted the Strategic Risk Register.

8. Register Research Panel (RRP) Annual Report

- 8.1.** The Chair introduced the agenda item and informed the Authority that they will be sitting as the Oversight Committee to consider this item.
- 8.2.** The Head of Research and Intelligence introduced the paper and reminded members that the HFE (Disclosure of Information for Research Purposes) Regulations 2010 allow the disclosure of information for research purposes, and that the Authority has delegated authorisation for this to the Register Research Panel (RRP).
- 8.3.** The HFEA holds a statutory register of all patients, partners, donors, treatments and children born as a result of fertility treatment and it is believed to be the longest running national database of assisted reproduction treatment in the world.
- 8.4.** One of the HFEA's key strategic ambitions is to continue to increase the availability and benefit of its data for patients, clinics and researchers.
- 8.5.** The Head of Research and Intelligence spoke of the reason why the HFEA collects data and how it can be used to have an oversight of the fertility sector and to look for trends and where improvements can be made. Reference was made to making data available to researchers conducting important research and the range of data reports which the HFEA publishes.
- 8.6.** The Head of Research and Intelligence stated that the HFEA regularly publishes [data research reports](#) which receive wide media coverage. The [Fertility trends](#) report was published in June 2025, and this report is the HFEA's annual statistical release and is the main point of reference for all data-related enquiries received throughout the year. Members were informed that the [Family formations in fertility treatment 2022](#) report was published in November 2024.
- 8.7.** In March 2025, the HFEA published the third edition of the [National Patient Survey](#). The survey explored how patient experience of fertility treatment in the UK has changed over the last decade, including satisfaction of treatment which remains high, as well as waiting times and treatment add-on use. The Head of Research and Intelligence stated that there were 1,500 responses to this survey.
- 8.8.** The Head of Research and Intelligence reminded the Authority that in 2024 the [award-winning HFEA dashboard](#) was launched as a new tool to better enable public access to a wider breadth of data in a simplified and customisable format. Since release, the dashboard has been updated annually alongside Fertility Trends to include a new year of data, as well as updated to add improvements or include further data. The dashboard received over 65,000 views in its first year

of operation and presentations on the dashboard were given at various meetings and events including Royal Statistical Society (RSS), Data Bites by Public Digital and DataConnect24. The HFEA dashboard also won the 2024 Trustworthiness, Quality & Value Award presented by the Office for Statistics Regulation in partnership with the RSS.

- 8.9.** The Senior Research Manager informed the Authority that the RRP had met six times during the year and had fully approved two projects and another one with conditions. The Senior Research Manager spoke of the projects which had been approved in 2024-25 and provided a brief overview of each project.
- 8.10.** The Senior Research Manager informed the Authority that since 2010 there had been 26 peer-reviewed academic articles published from RRP approved research projects and 32 from anonymous HFEA data sources such as the anonymised register.
- 8.11.** The Senior Research Manager spoke of the activities undertaken to support the strategic aim to increase the availability and benefit of the HFEA's data. This included the launch in July 2024 of the [HFEA Data Research Update Newsletter](#). The Authority was informed that there have been four editions published so far, with a high open rate of around 60%.
- 8.12.** The Authority was informed that the Research and Intelligence team had hosted their first webinar titled '[Accessing the UK fertility national register for research](#)' in February 2025. This webinar provided an introduction to the HFEA, an overview of data the HFEA holds on the register, how to access register data, and finished with a Q&A session. 180 people signed up for the webinar, 82 attended the session live, and feedback received was very positive. The Authority was informed that the full recording has been made available on the HFEA YouTube channel and the [data research webpage](#).
- 8.13.** The Authority congratulated the Research and Intelligence Team for the work which has been done to make the HFEA's data accessible in an easy-to-understand format and the increased engagement through the newsletter and webinar.
- 8.14.** In response to a question, the Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs confirmed that each approved project has its own page on the [data research](#) page of the HFEA website.
- 8.15.** In response to a question, the Senior Research Manager stated that whilst there has been some international interest, it is a requirement of applications that these must be from a UK-based research establishment.
- 8.16.** In response to questions about what the HFEA does or can do to stimulate future applications to the RRP, the Head of Research and Intelligence referred to the work which is set out in the new [HFEA Strategy for 2025-2028](#). The Head of Research and Intelligence referred to the positive feedback received on the webinar and how this will be used to help shape future engagement activities with researchers.
- 8.17.** A member referred to the [Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England](#), the emphasis this places on data research and questioned whether the HFEA had explored whether its data could be used as part of this plan. The Senior Research Manager responded that the HFEA is in contact with DHSC regarding increasing data availability to researchers and will consider how this may align with the HFEA's strategic aims.
- 8.18.** The Chair drew the discussion to a close and thanked the Head of Research and Intelligence and the Senior Research Manager for their informative presentation on the use of the HFEA's data.

Decision

- 8.19.** The Authority, sitting as the Oversight Committee, noted the Annual Report of the Register Research Panel.

9. Choose a Fertility Clinic (CaFC): focussed consultation

- 9.1.** The Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs introduced the paper and reminded the Authority that they last discussed Choose a Fertility Clinic (CaFC) in [May 2025](#). At that meeting, the background to CaFC was set out including updates to the headline metrics which were then published as an 'interim CaFC' in [May 2025](#).
- 9.2.** At this meeting the Authority noted that by the end of 2025, CaFC will be updated with detailed data to the end of 2023 (births) and 2024 (pregnancies) and the metrics used in this publication would be decided following a focused consultation with the sector and patient groups on the most appropriate metrics for the upcoming 'full' CaFC publication. The Authority also agreed that following the publication of the full CaFC later in 2025, the HFEA should review the different information sources held on the HFEA website and consider whether they should be brought together in a more unified or different way.
- 9.3.** The Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs stated that this paper outlines only the planned focused consultation on the headline metrics for the full CaFC publication in late 2025. The metrics, as presented in the paper, were explained and in response to a question, clarification was provided by professional members on the difference between 'births per embryo transfer' and 'births per embryo transferred'. A member suggested that defining the former as 'births per embryo transfer *procedure*' may help aid understanding.
- 9.4.** The Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs reminded the Authority that they last discussed multiple births in [March 2025](#) when it was noted that the national average multiple birth rate is now below 3.5% and 92% of clinics with over 150 IVF cycles are below the 10% rate. The [Authority agreed](#) at the meeting that the current multiple birth rate of 10% should be maintained, but that reporting at inspection and in the following inspection reports should only be *by exception* when a clinic is above the 10% rate. The Authority is therefore being asked whether the multiple birth rate for every clinic should be removed from the headline rate on CaFC and only reported by exception where the rate is above 10%.
- 9.5.** In response to a question, the Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs stated that the focussed consultation will be built using 'Survey Monkey', which is user friendly and there will be a free text comment box included. Respondents will be able to select in what capacity they are completing the survey and that individual staff members from clinics would be encouraged to complete the focussed consultation in addition to any formal response from the clinic that they are working in.
- 9.6.** A member who had reviewed the proposed text and questions for the focussed consultation confirmed that it had been written with a lay person viewpoint in mind and that there is explanatory text included.
- 9.7.** The Authority discussed the potential outreach of the focussed consultation and whether this should be expanded by sending it to other professional bodies, such as obstetricians and midwives, as well as ensuring that minority groups are represented. The ability to capture patient views and not just professionals was discussed. The Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs

referred to the different [stakeholder groups](#) that the HFEA works with and who will be invited to participate in the focussed consultation, and explained the range of professional bodies in the Professional Stakeholder Group (PSG) and the outreach in the Patient Engagement Forum (PEF) and Patient Organisation Stakeholder Group (POSG). The Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs commented that there is also a balance to be struck between quantity of responses versus ability to report back to Authority in the Autumn on this.

- 9.8.** In response to a question, the Chief Executive reminded members that respondents to the survey will be asked to rank the proposed metrics as to their preferred options.
- 9.9.** The Authority discussed that as a national regulator, it is necessary and appropriate for the HFEA to publish up-to-date data on the website as quickly as possible pursuant to its statutory duty under s.8(1)(c) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended). The Authority noted the importance of having an authoritative source of data to help inform choice and that this is in the interest of the public and patients.
- 9.10.** The Authority discussed the question regarding displaying the multiple births data and they agreed that the metric on reporting multiple births should be retained with no changes and should therefore be excluded from the focussed consultation.
- 9.11.** The Authority discussed the staged approach, noting this focussed consultation is the first step in the HFEA's review of the different information sources held on the HFEA website and whether these can be brought together in a more unified or different way.
- 9.12.** The Chief Executive reminded the Authority that the results of the focussed consultation can be used to help inform the decisions the Authority makes, but as a statutory regulatory body it is the responsibility of the Authority to make such decisions. This focussed consultation is a means of gathering information which can help inform the Authority's decisions.

Decision

- 9.13.** The Authority agreed that:
- a focussed consultation is published over the summer with a read out of the responses coming to Authority in Autumn 2025 for discussion and decision over the full CaFC publication.
 - the HFEA should seek views on the four metrics set out at paragraph 4.3 of the paper before the Authority, noting that the inclusion of "procedure" within some of the metrics might help aid understanding of the questions being asked.
 - the metric on reporting multiple births should be retained as currently presented and therefore no requirement to consult on this metric.

Action

- 9.14.** The Executive to implement the Authority's decisions regarding the focussed CaFC consultation.

10. Any other business

- 10.1.** The Chair thanked everyone for their active participation in the meeting. There being no further items of any other business the Chair closed the meeting and reminded members that the next Authority meeting will be held on Thursday 25 September 2025.

Chair's signature

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

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Chain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Chair: Julia Chain

Date: 25 September 2025