

Dear Requestor

RE: Freedom of Information Request

With reference to your request for information I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we partially hold the information that you have requested. A response to each part of your request is below.

Please note, as of 1 April 2020 the following Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Mansfield & Ashfield CCG, NHS Newark & Sherwood CCG, NHS Nottingham City CCG, NHS Nottingham North & East CCG, NHS Nottingham West CCG and NHS Rushcliffe CCG, merged to become NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG. More information around the new NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG can be found on our website - <https://nottsccg.nhs.uk/about-us/our-ccg/>

In the request you asked:

Re: Access to fertility services for female same-sex couples

1. Please disclose:

- a. Whether or not Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG funds IVF services for female same-sex couples?

Yes, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG funds IVF services for female same-sex couples.

- b. If so, how many cycles of IVF per couple does the CCG fund per couple?

NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG fund one cycle per couple. Please see attached IVF-ICSI Policy for further information.

2. If the answer to (1a) is yes, please disclose:

- a. Under Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG's current policy, how many cycles of artificial insemination must be undertaken by a female same-sex couple in order to become eligible to access NHS-funded IVF?

Six cycles of artificial insemination must be undertaken before becoming eligible for NHS funded IVF, please see attached Assisted Conception Policy.

- b. How many of the abovementioned cycles of artificial insemination must be self-funded by the couple?

All of the abovementioned cycles of artificial insemination must be self-funded by the couple.

3. Please disclose whether or not fertility services using donor sperm are provided under Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG?

Yes, fertility services using donor sperm are provided under NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG.

4. Please disclose how many cycles of IVF have been provided to female same-sex couples, funded by Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG, in the last:

- a. One year (April 2020 – present)

NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG do not hold this information. The CCG do not require our providers to seek prior approval for IVF Treatment.

- b. Five years (April 2016 – present)?

NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG do not hold this information. The CCG do not require our providers to seek prior approval for IVF Treatment.

5. Please disclose:

- a. Whether or not Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG's policy re. IVF access for female same-sex couples has been subject to any legal challenge?

No.
- b. If so, how much money has been paid out by Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG in settlements to resolve these challenges in the last five years (April 2016 – present)?

Not applicable.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group have an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. Further details of this procedure can be obtained by contacting Lucy Branson, Associate Director of Governance via lucy.branson@nhs.net or by writing to NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG, 1 Standard Court, Park Row, Nottingham, NG1 6GN.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether the organisation has complied with its obligations under the Act, and can require the organisation to remedy any problems. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group formerly known as NHS Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham West Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group and Nottingham North and East Clinical Commissioning Group. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to: FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
Telephone 0303 123 1113 or report a concern: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer on behalf of *NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group formerly known as NHS Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham West Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Nottingham North and East Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group.*

notts.foi@nhs.net

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the license conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent of NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing (email will suffice) to the FOI Lead via notts.foi@nhs.net. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.

