

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK: response to the publication of the

Draft Human Tissues and Embryos Bill

The Donor Conception Network welcomes key provisions in the Draft Human Tissues and Embryos Bill, published today 17th May 2007. These will –

- Enable donor conceived people to find out from the Register of Information currently held by the HFEA and the future Regulatory Authority for Tissues and Embryos (RATE) if they have donor-conceived genetic siblings and to make contact with them by mutual consent.
- Continue to require fertility clinics to consider the welfare of the child before offering treatment.
- Revise status and legal parenthood provisions to enable lesbian partners and unmarried heterosexual couples to be recognised as legal parents following surrogacy and donor conception.
- Enable donors to access non-identifying information on the Register of Information regarding any offspring and to be informed when their identifying details have been requested by any offspring
- Bring internet services currently providing fresh sperm into line with licensing requirements for fertility clinics.

Olivia Montuschi, a founder of DC Network said today, “Two years ago the government made an important, brave and correct decision to end anonymity for donors. We welcome and continue to support efforts to promote the interests of donor conceived children and adults, donors, parents of donor conceived children and those undergoing

fertility treatment. We believe, however, that these proposals should be taken further to include -

- Provisions for children conceived within a donor's own family to have their names on the Register of Information so that they may have contact with offspring resulting from a parent's donation, by mutual consent of both parties.
- Provision to ensure that adequate and appropriate counselling and intermediary services are available when individuals seek information from the Register of Information. This includes specifying both who should be responsible for providing such services and ensuring they are adequately resourced.

ENDS

NOTE FOR EDITORS:

The Donor Conception Network was started in 1993 by five families who all wished to be 'open' with their children about their donor conception. DC Network now has over 1000 families as members – just over half have children already and others are going through treatment or contemplating conception with donated sperm, eggs or embryos.

See web site www.dcnetwork.org

Phone 0208 245 4369 .