



Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008

2008 CHAPTER 22

PART 1

AMENDMENTS OF THE HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY ACT 1990

Grant, revocation and suspension of licences

16 Grant of licence

(1) Section 16 of the 1990 Act (grant of licence) is amended as follows.

(2) For subsection (1) substitute—

“(1) The Authority may on application grant a licence to any person if the requirements of subsection (2) below are met.”

(3) In subsection (2)—

- (a) for “licence committee” substitute “ Authority ” in each place it occurs,
- (b) in paragraph (c), after “application” insert “ or a licence under paragraph 3 of that Schedule authorising activities in connection with the derivation from embryos of stem cells that are intended for human application ”,
- (c) in paragraph (ca)—
 - (i) for “or embryos” substitute “ , embryos or human admixed embryos ”, and
 - (ii) after “that Schedule” insert “ authorising activities otherwise than in connection with the derivation from embryos of stem cells that are intended for human application ”, and
- (d) in paragraph (d), after “granted” insert “ and any premises which will be relevant third party premises ”.

(4) In subsection (4) for “licence committee” substitute “ Authority ”.

Changes to legislation: Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008, Cross Heading: Grant, revocation and suspension of licences is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (5) In subsection (5) for “licence committee” substitute “ Authority ”.
- (6) Omit subsections (6) and (7) (which concern the power to charge fees).

17 The person responsible

- (1) Section 17 of the 1990 Act (the person responsible) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1)(c)—
 - (a) for “and embryos” substitute “ , embryos and human admixed embryos ”, and
 - (b) for “or embryos” substitute “ , embryos or human admixed embryos ”.
- (3) Omit subsection (3) (which defines “the nominal licensee”).

18 Revocation and variation of licence

For section 18 of the 1990 Act (revocation and variation of licence) substitute—

“18 Revocation of licence

- (1) The Authority may revoke a licence on application by—
 - (a) the person responsible, or
 - (b) the holder of the licence (if different).
- (2) The Authority may revoke a licence otherwise than on application under subsection (1) if—
 - (a) it is satisfied that any information given for the purposes of the application for the licence was in any material respect false or misleading,
 - (b) it is satisfied that the person responsible has failed to discharge, or is unable because of incapacity to discharge, the duty under section 17,
 - (c) it is satisfied that the person responsible has failed to comply with directions given in connection with any licence,
 - (d) it ceases to be satisfied that the premises specified in the licence are suitable for the licensed activity,
 - (e) it ceases to be satisfied that any premises which are relevant third party premises in relation to a licence are suitable for the activities entrusted to the third party by the person who holds the licence,
 - (f) it ceases to be satisfied that the holder of the licence is a suitable person to hold the licence,
 - (g) it ceases to be satisfied that the person responsible is a suitable person to supervise the licensed activity,
 - (h) the person responsible dies or is convicted of an offence under this Act, or
 - (i) it is satisfied that there has been any other material change of circumstances since the licence was granted.

18A Variation of licence

- (1) The Authority may on application by the holder of the licence vary the licence so as to substitute another person for the person responsible if—

Changes to legislation: Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008, Cross Heading: Grant, revocation and suspension of licences is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (a) the application is made with the consent of that other person, and
 - (b) the Authority is satisfied that the other person is a suitable person to supervise the licensed activity.
- (2) The Authority may vary a licence on application by—
- (a) the person responsible, or
 - (b) the holder of the licence (if different).
- (3) The Authority may vary a licence without an application under subsection (2) if it has the power to revoke the licence under section 18(2).
- (4) The powers under subsections (2) and (3) do not extend to making the kind of variation mentioned in subsection (1).
- (5) The Authority may vary a licence without an application under subsection (2) by—
- (a) removing or varying a condition of the licence, or
 - (b) adding a condition to the licence.
- (6) The powers conferred by this section do not extend to the conditions required by sections 12 to 15 of this Act.”

19 Procedure for refusal, variation or revocation of licence

For section 19 of the 1990 Act (procedure for refusal, variation or revocation of licence) substitute—

“19 Procedure in relation to licensing decisions

- (1) Before making a decision—
- (a) to refuse an application for the grant, revocation or variation of a licence, or
 - (b) to grant an application for a licence subject to a condition imposed under paragraph 1(2), 1A(2), 2(2) or 3(6) of Schedule 2,
- the Authority shall give the applicant notice of the proposed decision and of the reasons for it.
- (2) Before making a decision under section 18(2) or 18A(3) or (5) the Authority shall give notice of the proposed decision and of the reasons for it to—
- (a) the person responsible, and
 - (b) the holder of the licence (if different).
- (3) Where an application has been made under section 18A(2) to vary a licence, but the Authority considers it appropriate to vary the licence otherwise than in accordance with the application, before so varying the licence the Authority shall give notice of its proposed decision and of the reasons for it to—
- (a) the person responsible, and
 - (b) the holder of the licence (if different).
- (4) A person to whom notice is given under subsection (1), (2) or (3) has the right to require the Authority to give him an opportunity to make representations of one of the following kinds about the proposed decision, namely—
- (a) oral representations by him, or a person acting on his behalf;

Changes to legislation: *Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008, Cross Heading: Grant, revocation and suspension of licences is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) written representations by him.

- (5) The right under subsection (4) is exercisable by giving the Authority notice of the exercise of the right before the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the day on which the notice under subsection (1), (2) or (3) was given.
- (6) The Authority may by regulations make such additional provision about procedure in relation to the carrying out of functions under sections 18 and 18A and this section as it thinks fit.

19A Notification of licensing decisions

- (1) In the case of a decision to grant a licence, the Authority shall give notice of the decision to—
- (a) the applicant, and
 - (b) the person who is to be the person responsible.
- (2) In the case of a decision to revoke a licence, the Authority shall give notice of the decision to—
- (a) the person responsible, and
 - (b) the holder of the licence (if different).
- (3) In the case of a decision to vary a licence on application under section 18A(1), the Authority shall give notice of the decision to—
- (a) the holder of the licence, and
 - (b) (if different) the person who is to be the person responsible.
- (4) In the case of any other decision to vary a licence, the Authority shall give notice of the decision to—
- (a) the person responsible, and
 - (b) the holder of the licence (if different).
- (5) In the case of a decision to refuse an application for the grant, revocation or variation of a licence, the Authority shall give notice of the decision to the applicant.
- (6) Subject to subsection (7), a notice under subsection (2), (4) or (5) shall include a statement of the reasons for the decision.
- (7) In the case of a notice under subsection (2) or (4), the notice is not required to include a statement of the reasons for the decision if the decision is made on an application under section 18(1) or 18A(2).

19B Applications under this Act

- (1) Directions may make provision about—
- (a) the form and content of applications under this Act, and
 - (b) the information to be supplied with such an application.
- (2) The Secretary of State may by regulations make other provision about applications under this Act.

Changes to legislation: Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008, Cross Heading: Grant, revocation and suspension of licences is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (3) Such regulations may, in particular, make provision about procedure in relation to the determination of applications under this Act and may, in particular, include—
- (a) provision for requiring persons to give evidence or to produce documents;
 - (b) provision about the admissibility of evidence.”

Commencement Information

- II** S. 19 wholly in force; s. 19 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 68; s. 19 in force for certain purposes at 6.4.2009 by S.I. 2009/479, art. 5(b) (with Sch.); s. 19 in force at 1.10.2009 otherwise by S.I. 2009/2232, art. 2(g)

20 Power to suspend licence

After section 19B (inserted by section 19 above) insert—

“19C Power to suspend licence

- (1) Where the Authority—
- (a) has reasonable grounds to suspect that there are grounds for revoking a licence, and
 - (b) is of the opinion that the licence should immediately be suspended,
- it may by notice suspend the licence for such period not exceeding three months as may be specified in the notice.
- (2) The Authority may continue suspension under subsection (1) by giving a further notice under that subsection.
- (3) Notice under subsection (1) shall be given to the person responsible or where the person responsible has died or appears to be unable because of incapacity to discharge the duty under section 17—
- (a) to the holder of the licence, or
 - (b) to some other person to whom the licence applies.
- (4) Subject to subsection (5), a licence shall be of no effect while a notice under subsection (1) is in force.
- (5) An application may be made under section 18(1) or section 18A(1) or (2) even though a notice under subsection (1) is in force.”

21 Reconsideration and appeals

For sections 20 and 21 of the 1990 Act (appeals to Authority against determinations of licence committees and further appeals) substitute—

“20 Right to reconsideration of licensing decisions

- (1) If an application for the grant, revocation or variation of a licence is refused, the applicant may require the Authority to reconsider the decision.

Changes to legislation: Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008, Cross Heading: Grant, revocation and suspension of licences is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (2) Where the Authority decides to vary or revoke a licence, any person to whom notice of the decision was required to be given (other than a person who applied for the variation or revocation) may require the Authority to reconsider the decision.
- (3) The right under subsections (1) and (2) is exercisable by giving the Authority notice of exercise of the right before the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the day on which notice of the decision concerned was given under section 19A.
- (4) If the Authority decides —
 - (a) to suspend a licence under section 19C(1), or
 - (b) to continue the suspension of a licence under section 19C(2),
 any person to whom notice of the decision was required to be given may require the Authority to reconsider the decision.
- (5) The right under subsection (4) is exercisable by giving the Authority notice of exercise of the right before the end of the period of 14 days beginning with the day on which notice of the decision concerned was given under section 19C.
- (6) The giving of any notice to the Authority in accordance with subsection (5) shall not affect the continuation in force of the suspension of the licence in respect of which that notice was given.
- (7) Subsections (1), (2) and (4) do not apply to a decision on reconsideration.

20A Appeals committee

- (1) The Authority shall maintain one or more committees to carry out its functions in pursuance of notices under section 20.
- (2) A committee under subsection (1) is referred to in this Act as an appeals committee.
- (3) Regulations shall make provision about the membership and proceedings of appeals committees.
- (4) Regulations under subsection (3) may, in particular, provide—
 - (a) for the membership of an appeals committee to be made up wholly or partly of persons who are not members of the Authority, and
 - (b) for the appointment of any person to advise an appeals committee on prescribed matters.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (4) “prescribed” means prescribed by regulations under subsection (3).

20B Procedure on reconsideration

- (1) Reconsideration shall be by way of a fresh decision.
- (2) Regulations shall make provision about the procedure in relation to reconsideration.
- (3) Regulations under subsection (2) may, in particular, make provision—

Changes to legislation: Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008, Cross Heading: Grant, revocation and suspension of licences is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (a) entitling a person by whom reconsideration is required, (“the appellant”) to require that the appellant or the appellant's representative be given an opportunity to appear before and be heard by the appeals committee dealing with the matter,
 - (b) entitling the person who made the decision which is the subject of reconsideration to appear at any meeting at which such an opportunity is given, and to be heard in person or by a representative,
 - (c) requiring the appeals committee dealing with the matter to consider any written representations received from the appellant or the person who made the decision which is the subject of reconsideration,
 - (d) preventing any person who made the decision which is the subject of reconsideration from sitting as a member of the appeals committee dealing with the matter,
 - (e) requiring persons to give evidence or to produce documents,
 - (f) concerning the admissibility of evidence, and
 - (g) requiring the appellant and any prescribed person to be given notice of the decision on reconsideration and a statement of reasons for the appeals committee's decision.
- (4) Regulations under subsection (2) may, in particular, make different provision about the procedure on reconsideration depending upon whether the reconsideration is in pursuance of a notice under section 20(3) or a notice under section 20(5).
- (5) Such regulations may, in particular, make provision—
- (a) in relation to cases where a person requires reconsideration of a decision to suspend a licence and reconsideration of a decision to continue the suspension of that licence, and
 - (b) in relation to cases where reconsideration of a decision is required under section 20(2) by only one of two persons by whom it could have been required.
- (6) In this section—
- (a) “prescribed” means prescribed by regulations under subsection (2), and
 - (b) “reconsideration” means reconsideration in pursuance of a notice under section 20.

21 Appeal on a point of law

A person aggrieved by a decision on reconsideration in pursuance of a notice under section 20 may appeal to the High Court or, in Scotland, the Court of Session on a point of law.”

Commencement Information

12 S. 21 wholly in force at 1.10.2009; s. 21 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 68; s. 21 in force for certain purposes at 6.4.2009 by S.I. 2009/479, arts. 3, 5(c)(h) (with Sch.); s. 21 in force at 1.10.2009 otherwise by S.I. 2009/2232, art. 2(i)

Changes to legislation:

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008, Cross Heading: Grant, revocation and suspension of licences is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 55(3)(e) and word inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 75\(b\)](#)