



The British Fertility Society (BFS) welcomes the opportunity to modernise the Human Fertility and Embryology Act so that it better serves patients, practitioners and society. This Act has been crucial in developing and maintaining public confidence in what was once a novel field of medicine, but is now routine medical care. Current legislation is no longer consistent with many scientific advances and social change.

The BFS is pleased to see that the regulator has proposed that the law be reformed to remove the undue need for secrecy which currently exists around fertility treatment. This is outdated and puts patient safety at risk. Further, current requirements for consent prior to treatment are impractical and cumbersome, and in need of modernisation.

Reform of the Act is a once in a generation opportunity and members of the BFS have prepared a detailed outline of what we consider should be updated, in our document <https://www.britishfertilitysociety.org.uk/special-interest-groups/law-policy-ethics/sig-discussion-of-hfe-act/>.

Dr Raj Mathur, Chair of the BFS said 'The UK is a world leader in sensible regulation of fertility treatment, but some aspects of the current law make life unduly difficult for patients and clinicians. We are keen to work with the regulator and government to make the Act fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'.

Professor Alison Murdoch, President of the BFS said 'When IVF first started, there was understandable anxiety in society about its safety, and a stigma attached to patients who needed to have this new treatment. The situation now is very different, with wide social acceptance, rising success rates and more than 8 million babies having been born world-wide from IVF. The time has come for the law governing IVF to be modernised, so that it can support patients seeking parenthood and clinicians wishing to deliver innovative treatments.'

**Note:**

The British Fertility Society (BFS) is a membership body for professionals working in all disciplines of reproductive medicine. The BFS is dedicated to raising the standards of practice, and actively promotes the sharing of knowledge, mentorship and research. It welcomes clinicians and scientists, (including doctors, nurses, counsellors, embryologists and andrologists) and other professional groups working in fertility, into its membership. It provides a voice for professionals in matters relating to regulation and funding of fertility treatment. The BFS is a unique multi-disciplinary organisation at the forefront of fertility in the UK, with an increasing global profile.