

uses to which the statistics on each topic will be put is given in paragraphs 9 to 23 of the White Paper 1991 Census of Population, Cm. 430, of July 1988, which set out the Government's proposals. An account is also given, at paragraph 24, of the topics that were considered but excluded as a result of the selection process.

The importance of privacy is a prime consideration when assessing the public acceptability of census questions. This, and the need to keep the census form to an acceptable length, will continue to be key considerations in planning any future census, as will, of course, the need to keep private the personal information people put on their forms. The Census Act 1920 strengthened by the Census (Confidentiality) Act of earlier this year, gives legal protection to the confidentiality of personal census information.

Northern RHAs

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the number, size and nature of service increment for teaching and regional contracts placed with provider units by the Northern regional health authorities for 1991-92.

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: This information is not held centrally. The hon. Member may wish to contact Mr. Peter Carr, the chairman of Northern regional health authority for details.

Haemophiliacs

Mr. John Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made with the settlement of the litigation by those haemophiliacs infected with HIV; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Waldegrave: I am pleased to be able to announce that a formal offer conveying the detailed terms of the settlement has now been made to the plaintiffs' representatives. The new trust, which will administer the payments, the Macfarlane (Special Payments) (No. 2) Trust, is being set up today.

Payments can begin as soon as acceptances have been received from individual plaintiffs and the settlement has been approved by Mr. Justice Ognall. This should be within a few days.

Full details of the payments to be made under the settlement will be given once those details have been announced in open court.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990

Mr. Summerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what are his proposals for regulations under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990.

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: The Department of Health has published for consultation proposals for regulations under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990. It is proposed to bring these regulations into force on 1 August. The main provisions of the Act will come into force on that day, and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority will assume its full powers.

The regulations will cover the composition of licence committees; licensing procedure; extension of the maximum storage period for gametes in specific circumstances; exemption from licence requirements for

those keeping and examining gametes or embryos in connection with the investigation of, or proceedings for, an offence; and for storage of gametes for purposes which are not intended to be controlled by the Act.

The Department has also published for consultation proposals to ensure a smooth transition to the new licensing system. These do not form part of the regulations, but will be contained in a commencement order.

The Department has sent proposals for these regulations to a wide range of professional bodies, relevant treatment and research centres and other interested organisations. I am arranging for copies to be available in the Vote Office. The Department will consider all comments received carefully in formulating the regulations which will be laid before Parliament.

Infertility

Mr. Summerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he has any plans to lay regulations to bring the infertility treatment known as GIFT within statutory control.

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: The Government have no plans to take further steps to regulate GIFT at the moment, but we intend to keep this matter under review.

Treatments subject to statutory control under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act include those which involve the creation of a human embryo outside the body and those which involve the use of donated or stored gametes or embryos. GIFT is not intended to secure the creation of an embryo outside the body. Where it involves the storage or donation of any gametes, GIFT will be subject to the licensing provision of the Act because it falls within the second category set out above. Thus provision already exists to safeguard those involved in treatment in these circumstances. But in other cases, for example, when the husband's sperm is used, it will not. Many centres offering GIFT will also have to be licensed under the Act because of other treatments they provide, for example, in-vitro fertilisation. This means that these centres will need to comply with the provisions of the Act and follow the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's code of practice.

Mr. Summerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action he is taking in respect of information about their donor parents for children born as a result of infertility treatment.

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: Regulations under section 31(4)(a) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 can require the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority to give specified information at age 18 or later to an applicant born following treatment services involving the use of donated gametes.

This raises profound issues which require wide-ranging consultation. We do not therefore propose to introduce regulations at this time, and donors will remain anonymous.

Family Planning

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that all health authorities and national health service trusts follow the 1974 memorandum of guidance on family planning and make