



# THE MACFARLANE TRUST

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31 January 2005

Our Ref: MCH/2801/NSSC

W Connon, Esq  
Blood Group Policy,  
Department of Health,  
Room 633B,  
Skipton House,  
80 London Road, London SE1 6LH

Dear William,

## **Assisted Conception**

The above was considered at the last full meeting of trustees on the 24 January.

Hitherto, the Trust has provided assistance to registrants to meet ancillary costs arising from treatment programmes such as travel but has never sought to fund, either in part or in full, the direct costs that form part of the assisted conception process.

The Board of Trustees were asked to consider a recommendation from the Trust's National Support Services Committee that a degree of financial support would be available to registrants seeking to start a family. A financial maximum, with caveats, was agreed but before any decision was to be ratified, the Trustees felt the views of the Department should be sought. There was particular concern that the range of options available in undergoing assisted conception varied within the NHS. The minute reads as follows:-

"After a lengthy debate, it was resolved in the first instance to write to ask the Department of Health what their attitude was to the difficulties caused by the apparent post-code lottery that seemed to exist within the current NHS provision and to seek approval from the Department that the Trust was proposing to support registrants in their attempts to advance conception by assisted means".

May I ask the Department to respond to the points raised within the minute?

Yours sincerely,

MARTIN HARVEY  
Chief Executive.

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