Our Ref: FOI.14.DGS0185

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 10 February 2014 by NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group. The information you have requested is listed below together with the response:

We are a married lesbian couple who wish to have children who live in Shorne in Kent. Do you offer IVF to gay and lesbian couples?

There are significant difficulties associated with assisted reproductive technologies using donated material (eggs, embryos or sperm) and they are not funded for any patient group by the NHS in Kent and Medway. To determine local policy and eligibility criteria a careful review of fertility assessment and treatment in Kent and Medway was carried out. The review looked at the guidance from NICE and the evidence on what is most likely to maximise success for couples without requiring extra funding at a time of tight NHS budgets.

Certain treatments will necessarily be restricted, as CCGs will always be under significant pressure to provide funds for more treatments than they have the resources to accommodate. This is particularly critical for an area such as use of donor gametes, where there are significant difficulties.