Regulating fertility treatment for 25 years

Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority

Annual report and accounts 2015/16

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA)

Annual report and accounts 2015/16

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Overview

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) is the regulator of fertility treatment and human embryo research in the UK. Our role includes licensing and setting standards for clinics and research centres and providing a range of information for the public, particularly people seeking treatment, donor-conceived people and donors.

The HFEA has had another highly successful year. We continue to regulate around 140 fertility clinics and embryo research centres and have just under 70 members of staff. Our expenditure is around £5m, around 80% of which is funded by fees from those we regulate. We seek continuously to improve and streamline our processes, reducing the regulatory burden and maintaining efficiency. We manage our finances to ensure fees are set to bring in the income we need to spend on regulating. We keep abreast of scientific developments and adopt a proportionate approach to regulation.

We have a strong reputation, both in the UK and internationally, for robust yet proportionate regulation, allowing us to take bold decisions with substantial public support. Our decision making processes are more robust than ever and have stood the test of forensic examination in the courts.

Following the successful passage of the mitochondrial donation regulations through Parliament, we put in place a licensing scheme which has been ready to receive applications since the October 2015 deadline. That work involved considerable engagement with stakeholders and the resulting scheme has been very well received.

This year also saw another significant bio-science innovation with our decision to grant a research licence to use the genome editing technique, CRISPr Cas9, on human embryos. This is the first time that these techniques have been used outside of China, and the first time anywhere in the world within a regulatory framework. The decision attracted international media coverage and was seen as further evidence of the ability of the HFEA's regulatory regime to balance innovation and public confidence.

We made significant progress on Information for Quality (IfQ), our programme to transform our information systems and our communications channels with patients and clinics. The new services flowing from IfQ will be launched during 2016/17.

Due to errors in consent forms completed at clinics initially identified by HFEA inspectors, the legal parenthood of some children conceived with donor gametes has been uncertain. We have set out requirements to clinics, monitored the situation and made our expectations clear as to the actions clinics should take in these cases. Some cases have gone to court, where the President of the Family Court has granted parenthood. He has also been highly critical of the clinics involved and in early cases of the HFEA and the regulatory scheme in general. Legal parenthood is a key priority for us and we now examine these consents at every inspection and have seen noticeable improvement. During 2015-16 we underwent a Triennial review, which considered both our functions and our form. The report will be published later in 2016.

During the year, we also:

- completed a full inspection programme, approved over 50 new conditions for embryo testing and processed over 500 reported incidents

- continued to reduce the incidence of multiple births, the biggest single avoidable health risk to mothers and babies in in vitro fertilisation (IVF) – from 24% in 2008 to around 15% in 2013, without impacting upon success rates
- processed all requests for sensitive personal information from our Register on time and in a way which is compatible with data protection rules and introduced a three-year pilot counselling service from June 2015
- responded to 68 Parliamentary Questions and 99 Freedom of Information requests.

How we work

As set out in our strategy, we:

- make the quality of care experienced by patients, donors and donor-conceived people our central priority and the primary consideration in our decision making
- consult and collaborate widely – listening to, and learning from, those with an interest in what we do
- communicate more with stakeholders before making decisions and explain those decisions more clearly
- take the time to implement decisions with appropriate stakeholder involvement, piloting new initiatives when appropriate
- keep abreast of scientific and clinical innovations and actively consider what these might mean for the future quality of care
- are a more agile and flexible organisation, changing course if needed in order to be responsive (both to stakeholders and to new priorities)
- continue to exercise our statutory functions consistently, proportionately, openly and fairly
- observe the highest standards of integrity and professionalism in putting into effect the law as we govern the fertility sector
- continue to treat people and their information with sensitivity, respect and confidentiality.

Our legislation and functions

The following information is provided to give a complete picture of our purpose and core functions, which are defined by the following two acts of Parliament:

- the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended) – generally referred to as ‘the 1990 Act (as amended)’, and
- the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (‘the 2008 Act’).

The 2008 Act extensively amends the provisions of the 1990 Act, which continues to form the main framework governing our duties and responsibilities. However, the 2008 Act also contained new provisions which were not included in the 1990 Act. In particular, these include provisions relating to legal parenthood.

The 1990 Act (as amended) gives us a number of statutory functions, namely to:

- license and inspect clinics carrying out fertility treatment and storage
- license and inspect establishments undertaking human embryo research

- ensure, where a licensed clinic makes use of an external service which does not hold an HFEA licence, that there is a third party agreement in place which is in accordance with any licence conditions imposed by us
- produce and maintain a Code of Practice, providing guidance to clinics and research establishments about the proper conduct of licensed activities
- keep a formal register of information about donors, treatments and children born as a result of those treatments
- maintain a formal register of licences granted
- maintain a register of certain serious adverse events or reactions (as set out in the 1990 Act (as amended))
- investigate serious adverse events and serious adverse reactions and take appropriate control measures
- respond to any request from a competent authority in another European Economic Area (EEA) state to carry out an inspection relating to a serious adverse event or reaction and to take any appropriate control measures
- collaborate with the competent authorities of other EEA states.

In addition to these specific statutory functions, the legislation also gives us some more general functions, including:

- promoting compliance with the requirements of the 1990 Act (as amended), the 2008 Act and the Code of Practice
- maintaining a statement of the general principles that we should follow when conducting our functions and by others when carrying out licensed activities
- observing the principles of best regulatory practice, including transparency, accountability, consistency, and targeting regulatory action where it is needed
- carrying out our functions effectively, efficiently and economically
- publicising our role and providing relevant advice and information to donor-conceived people, donors, clinics, research establishments and patients
- reviewing information about:
    - human embryos and developments in research involving human embryos
    - the provision of treatment services and activities governed by the 1990 Act (as amended)
- advising the Secretary of State for Health on developments in the above fields, upon request.

We also function as one of the two UK competent authorities for the European Union Tissues and Cells Directive (EUTCD). This directive regulates the donation, procurement, testing, processing, preservation and distribution of human tissue and cells for human application.

Activities

Our objectives for 2015/16 were as follows.

Setting standards

Objective one: improving the quality and safety of care through our regulatory activities

Achievements

Delivering the full compliance cycle to maintain standards for patients

As usual, we undertook our full range of inspection, audit and licensing activities. This ensured that clinics were appropriately inspected and monitored against published performance indicators, and issued with licences for up to four years. We also continued our programme of unannounced inspections. Our compliance activities provide assurance on standards and safety for the public and our other stakeholders.

Identifying and implementing ways of improving the quality and safety of care

We increased our focus on quality and safety of care in our inspection activities – in particular through checking at inspection that properly informed consent, good infection control, medicines management and the use of approved medical equipment were all in place. We also maintained our focus on reducing multiple births rates, using our data to help clinics to identify poor performance and encouraging them to take corrective action.

We also continued to evaluate areas of regulatory concern and identify performance levers. Alongside this we increased our focus on learning from incidents, adverse events and complaints from patients, in dialogue with the sector. This included focused work with individual clinics who reported such events, to assist them in improving. We published our annual report on clinical incidents in 2014.

Making the patient experience integral to the way in which we assess clinics' performance

We increased the amount of patient feedback we obtain before and during inspections, and continued our work through the IfQ programme to increase this still further through our new website, in 2016. Patient experiences are now set out more explicitly in the inspection reports that are submitted to licensing committees, so that such experience informs licensing decisions.

Seeking patients' views, and understanding their perspective, as part of the way we work

Our user research to underpin the IfQ programme enabled us to identify the quality factors that are the most relevant for patients. These findings are being implemented through the IfQ programme (e.g., through the revised presentation of Choose a Fertility Clinic (CaFC)). We will subsequently evaluate the impact of this work and see if the approach needs to be refined.

Identifying the best ways to optimise success rates and developing a common improvement agenda

We have continued to use every opportunity within our role as regulator to maximise the chances of success for patients. We address with clinics any performance alerts in relation to their success rates. We also review emerging procedures and publish any evidence available, working with regulatory partners to

ensure there are no inappropriate barriers to the introduction of innovative (safe) new techniques. We have been working towards an improved presentation of our data about success rates on CaFC, through the IfQ programme. We hope this work will collectively lead to improved success rates, over time. We also want to equip patients with a better and more realistic idea of their own chances of success.

In late 2015, we also updated the multiple births information for patients and professionals, to help minimise and reduce the occurrence of multiple births. This information also helps patients to make informed choices about their treatment options and the associated risks and benefits.

Publishing more HFEA data to drive improvements in clinic performance

As a result of the IfQ programme, we will shortly be publishing a wider range of performance data on our website. Work on the programme has taken place throughout 2015/16, with a successful alpha stage between July and November 2015, and the beta stage (where products start to be built) commencing in December 2015 following required Government Digital Service approvals.

Publishing more data is an intrinsic aim of the IfQ programme, so as to increase transparency and empower and inform patients. This work will also increase visibility for clinics of sector-wide data, so that they can assess their own performance against it. Our aim is to encourage best value and the best possible treatment outcomes for patients.

Reviewing and advising on issues relating to mitochondrial donation

This year we implemented a range of agreed statutory changes (further to Parliamentary decisions) to enable clinics to make applications to carry out mitochondrial donation in treatment, for the avoidance of serious mitochondrial disease.

The statutory changes introduced by Parliament were implemented clearly and robustly, with clear information for patients and clinics.

We now await the results of some externally-run safety and efficacy tests, before the first applications can be submitted to us. There will be a further scientific review once the tests have been completed and published.

Maintaining our role as the UK's competent authority for ART in the European Union

We attend twice yearly competent authority events, and implement associated EU decisions as relevant. By participating, the HFEA gains up-to-date intelligence about European matters, and shapes European decisions so that they better reflect UK practices and perspectives. This year we have begun work on three projects to implement recent EU decisions on the import/export of gametes and on EU coding requirements. This work will continue until April 2017 (the implementation date for the EU Directives).

Objective two: improving the lifelong experience for donors, donor-conceived people, patients using donor conception and their wider families.

Achievements

Providing information about donor conception directly to patients and donors

Throughout the year, we continued to publish information to ensure that potential donors, recipients and donor conceived people have better access to clear, authoritative impartial information about a range of issues, including a range of leaflets for those accessing identifiable information about their donor.

Ensuring that clinics prepare patients adequately for donation and fully understand their role and importance as a lifelong information provider; and that egg and sperm donors are well supported and understand the lifelong commitment that follows from donation

By continuing to promote the Lifecycle information leaflets and the pack about donor information produced in 2014/15 for clinics, we have achieved improved clarity of role and performance for clinics in relation to donation and associated information guardianship. We have also improved the overall experience for donors, donor-conceived people seeking information and patients and their families.

Collecting and publishing information regarding donor egg and sperm availability in the UK and addressing impacts for patients (for example, by providing more information about the implications of treatment abroad)

Following consultation as part of the IfQ programme in 2014/15, we further explored with stakeholders and professional organisations how best to collect and use UK data on the availability of donated eggs and sperm. We will continue to progress this work as we conclude the redevelopment of our website in 2016/17.

Improving the provision of counselling support for donor-conceived people wishing to access information held on the HFEA Register

This year we began a three-year pilot providing support services for applicants to the Register. Counselling support is now offered for all Opening the Register (OTR) applicants (those seeking non-identifying information) and for donor-conceived applicants receiving donor identifying information. Mediation services are also in place for when donors and donor-conceived people meet. Basic mediation training and systems are in place for dealing with identity release to donors and donor-conceived people. Our aim is to ensure that OTR applicants feel more supported and are prepared to deal with the information they receive from us.

As before, we also continued to facilitate timely access to information from the Register for those who are entitled to it. Opening the Register requests continued to be met in a sensitive manner and within required time limits (20 working days, excluding time for counselling), throughout the year.

Increasing and informing choice

Objective three: using the data in the HFEA register of treatments to improve outcomes and research.

Achievements

Publishing and supplying the information we hold, for the benefit of stakeholders

We continued to regularly update CaFC information, so as to assist patient choice. This involves a six monthly verification and publication schedule, to maintain the provision of up-to-date and accurate information.

Through the IfQ programme, we are working on improving the presentation of clinic comparison information on CaFC. This work has been based on extensive user research, and the beta phase of work (the building phase) commenced in December 2015. The aim is for the published outcome data to be more useful and easier to understand and to set up positive incentives for improvements, as well as increased consumer choice and clinic comparability.

We continued to deepen our relationships with relevant other bodies, such as the Government Digital Service (GDS) the Health and Social Care information Centre (HSCIC) and being an active member of the National Information Board (NIB). This helps us to contribute to the objectives of the wider health system, with respect to information management, and to learn from best practice in data management, systems integrity and security.

We continued our information provision for researchers requesting access to register data, providing the requested information within 90 calendar days of approval. Our aim is to ensure that Register information is used to best effect, promoting understanding and facilitating good research, ultimately for patient benefit.

Maintaining the Register of Treatments and Outcomes and supporting clinics in reporting the data

Register data and forms continued to be processed and quality assured throughout the year, through liaison with clinics on errors and omissions and through validation and verification of Register entries. This ongoing process ensures that high quality data is available to develop patient information and to support risk-based regulation and evidence-based policy-making.

Publishing reports on the information we hold for the benefit of stakeholders

We continued to publish statistical and other reports during the year. These included:

- The 'Fertility treatment in 2014' report covering 2013–2014. This report provides patients, clinic staff and others with up-to-date information about a range of topics, and carries 'official statistics' status.
- Statistical report on multiple births. This provides up-to-date information on progress in reducing the incidence of multiple births following ART.
- Report on incidents and alerts. This report contributes to a culture of openness and information sharing where clinic staff are empowered to report mistakes and learn from each other. It also promotes transparency and maximises opportunities for learning from incidents to improve quality of care for patients.

In addition, we continued throughout the year to manage the ongoing work of the register research panel, which considers applications from researchers to use our register data for linkage studies, which result in publications about health outcomes and success rates.

Objective four: ensuring patients have access to high quality meaningful information.

Achievements

Improved HFEA information about treatments available, scientific research, embryo and stem cell research and other fertility subjects

Through the IfQ programme, we commenced the redevelopment of the content of our website to provide an expanded range of educative and scientific information about current treatments and fertility issues. This will lead to increased information for patients and others. The new website will ensure that our information is accessible, engaging and meaningful, so that patients are better informed and better placed to deal with treatment issues and decisions. Our aim is to ensure that patients feel safe and know they can expect certain standards in clinics, and that prospective patients have clearer information and signposting, and are more aware of the potential risks of new and different treatments as well as the possible benefits.

Enhancing the patient voice in all of our work, including information provision

Following a consultation to inform the IfQ programme in 2014/15, we established patients' views and information needs which are fundamental to the redesign of our website. Over time, we will be able to make better use, via the new website, of feedback mechanisms, video and integration with social media platforms.

The new website will enable increased feedback opportunities for patients, and easier interaction with us.

Working with clinics and scientific experts to publish information about new treatments

In redesigning the website, we have also begun to establish improved mechanisms for producing and publishing accessible information when new treatment options emerge, working in collaboration with clinics and experts where necessary (including the professional bodies we work with regularly, and whose input is essential to this process). This will enable us to increase public understanding of emerging new science and future treatment possibilities. It will also ensure patients are better informed and better placed to deal with treatment issues and decisions when such treatments begin to be offered by clinics, and that they are better placed to judge the merits of any media speculation about new treatments.

Our ongoing annual scientific horizon scanning work also feeds into this, ensuring that early consideration is given to emerging scientific issues and developments.

Enhancing Choose a Fertility Clinic (CaFC) by including user experience scores

We have developed a method for incorporating patient ratings on the newly-redesigned CaFC tool. This will enable patients to take into account other patients' experiences to help them decide on a clinic.

Ensuring that clinics prepare and support patients and donors through the information they give them

We continued throughout the year to encourage clinics to provide accurate and sufficient information in their websites, publications and other materials given to patients. We do this so that patients and donors can have confidence in the information clinics give them and are in a better position to compare and choose between clinics.

Through asking patients directly (e.g., on inspection) and conducting desk-based research, we provided factual feedback to clinics and encouraged best practice, making recommendations for improvements whenever problems were found.

Efficiency, economy and value

Objective five: ensuring the HFEA remains demonstrably good value for the public, the sector and Government.

Achievements

Ensuring the HFEA is easy to deal with and offers a professional and cost-effective service in all that it does

We achieved this through various means in 2015/16. We continued to use our strategy to help us to prioritise our activities and manage our limited resources to best effect.

We continued our engagement arrangements with clinics on fees charged, established in 2014/15. This gives accountability and transparency in respect of the fees we charge clinics. Towards the end of the

year, the Authority agreed the first change in fees for several years, which, following Department of Health and Treasury approval, will come into effect in April 2016, and will enable us to balance our budget.

We continued to maintain efficient and effective decision-making through our committees, ensuring governance tools underpinning licensing and other decisions were in place and effective.

The HFEA continued to receive a large number of requests for access to information, under various regimes, and we ensured legal and Parliamentary requirements were met.

We maintained our existing relationships and service level agreements (SLAs) with other Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs), in the interests of efficiencies. These include sharing finance resources with the Human Tissue Authority (HTA), and SLAs for certain HR and facilities services.

These arrangements ensure our infrastructure is effective and supports the delivery of our strategic vision. Our central systems, processes and tools continued to be efficiently run, giving good value and service. At the start of the 2016/17 business year, the HFEA will move to new office premises, alongside another ALB. This move enables best use to the made of Crown Estate property, and is in keeping with the wider interests of government property strategy. Plans for the move began in November 2015 and will continue until the move takes place in April 2016.

Modifying our ways of working to ensure the organisation is responsive, agile, innovative and effective in achieving its strategic and statutory goals

We continued our focus on building our staff capacity and skills and maintaining a high quality workforce, in keeping with our people strategy, which supports the delivery of the overall HFEA strategy for 2014 to 2017.

We continued to ensure that our internal compliance processes and systems were up to date and effective, so that regulatory efficiency and quality was maintained and improved. We also maintained an overview of emerging scientific, clinical and legal developments, to ensure that evidence-based decision-making continued to be supported.

The HFEA also participates in the 'One Stop Shop' for life sciences, which was launched in 2014. This initiative brings together expertise from the HFEA, the HTA, the Health Research Authority (HRA) and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) to provide regulatory advice to those working in the life sciences industry.

Improving the methods used to submit and verify register data

We began the process of modernising our Register function and processes, through the IfQ programme. The work to date has been extensive, and continues into the next business year. We have developed a new data dictionary, which will be incorporated into the new Register structure and will then need to be maintained. We have begun to redevelop our data submissions processes and the clinic portal (used by clinics to view, and to provide us with, key information and licensing applications).

We have also started our review of the verification processes for clinic outcomes appearing on CaFC.

Our ultimate aim is to reduce transactional costs for clinics and increase user satisfaction, through achieving 'right first time' data quality, and reducing unnecessary effort by clinics in submitting the required data.

Risks as at 31 March 2016

Below are the main risks we face that, should they occur, would have the greatest material effect on the functioning of the HFEA as a whole.

By considering such risks, we can assess the continuing viability of our strategy and business plan against changes in circumstance, and make adjustments when necessary. This does not mean we expect the risks to materialise – instead it indicates that these are areas of risk of which we need to be aware and to consider our response to in order to perform our role effectively.

Further information on our approach to managing strategic risks can be found in the governance statement.

Risk area	Main strategic risks monitored	Related strategic theme
Regulatory model	Quality and safety of care	Setting standards: quality and safety
	Loss of regulatory authority	
IfQ programme	Improved information access	Increasing and informing choice: information
	Register data	Increasing and informing choice: Register data
	Delivery of promised efficiencies	Efficiency, economy and value
Data	Data loss or breach	Efficiency, economy and value
	Incorrect data released	
Donor conception	Inaccuracy in response to an 'Opening the Register' (OTR) request	Setting standards: donor conception
	Support for OTR applicants	
Financial viability	Income and expenditure	Efficiency, economy and value
Capability	Knowledge and capability	Efficiency, economy and value
Legal challenge	Resource diversion	Efficiency, economy and value
Office move (April 2016)	Business continuity during and after an office move	Efficiency, economy and value

Going concern

We consider the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate because there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the ability of the organisation to continue as a going concern.

Performance analysis

Measuring performance

Each year, we agree a business plan with our sponsor department, the Department of Health (DH) that includes strategic aims, high level objectives and key performance indicators covering delivery of our strategic plan.

We record achievement of key performance indicators monthly and review achievement and action needed at the Corporate Management Group (CMG) meeting. A report is made to the Authority every two months and DH every quarter.

Analysis of performance over the year

Performance indicators 2015/16

Performance indicators	Target 2015/16	Performance 2015/16
A: Compliance		
Average number of working days taken for the whole licensing process, from the day of inspection to the decision being communicated to the centre	70 working days or less	69 working days
Percentage of PGD applications processed within three months (66 working days)	100%	100%
B: Communication and information		
Opening the Register requests responded to within 20 working days	100%	100% (23 requests)
Requests for contributions to Parliamentary questions (PQs) answered within Department of Health deadlines.	100%	100%[1] (68/68 PQs within deadline)
C: Corporate		
Staff sickness absence rate (%)	Under 3.0%	2.1%
Cash and bank balance	To continue to move further towards the Department of Health's agreed minimum cash	£2.16m[2] at year end (from £2.37m at start of year)

[1] Lower numbers than 2014-15 due to the dissolution of Parliament for two months

[2] Due to delays in IfQ spend and a surge in income in the last few months of the year

	reserve of £1.52m	
Percentage of invoices paid within 10 calendar days	70%	98%
Debts collected within 60 calendar days	85%	90%

Financial review

We are funded from two main sources:

- licence and treatment fees from the establishments we licence (79%), and
- grant-in-aid from the DH (21%).

75% of our expenditure is on staff costs. Our other administrative costs include spend on our IfQ programme (9% of total spend), legal costs (4%) and facilities expenses (5%).

Summary position as at 31 March 2016

	2015/16	**2014/15**
	£'000s	£'000s
Expenditure		
Staff costs	3,935	3,900
General administrative costs	1,211	1,816
Total expenditure	**5,146**	**5,716**
Income		
Licence fees	4,215	4,035
Other income	1	53
Total income	**4,216**	**4,088**
Net (expenditure)/income before interest and tax	(930)	(1,628)

Our financial results are included in the accounts on pages 44 to 62 and show that the deficit after interest and tax was £885,483 (2014/15 a deficit of £1,623,175).

The DH provided grant-in-aid towards the financing of resource expenditure of £1,120,000 (2014/15: £920,000) and £100,000 towards the purchase of fixed assets (2014/15: £Nil). Taking into account the resource financing, and after interest and tax, we had a surplus of £34,517. This arose due to staff vacancies and less legal expenditure than expected. There was also more fee income than forecast in the final months of the year.

The surplus, most of which is funded from fee income, is added to our accumulated reserves. The IfQ programme, which cost £682,737 in 2015/16 (2014/15 £564,500) of which £440,568 has been categorised as development expenditure and has been transferred to our balance sheet under the heading Development expenditure. There will be further spend on IfQ in 2016/17 funded from accumulated reserves.

Supplier payments

We aim to pay all undisputed invoices in accordance with suppliers' terms of payment, which are usually within 30 days. During the financial year 2015/16, we settled 100% of all invoices received within 30 days (£1,814,066 in value), whilst 98% of invoices received were paid within 10 days.

We bill clinics promptly and at the end of the year 90% of debts had been collected within 60 days.

Our staff

Recruitment

We have, like other public bodies, been subject to a recruitment freeze over the past five years. Within that freeze we have the ability, under delegated responsibility, to re-appoint to posts designated 'front-line' and/or business critical. All appointments are made in accordance with our recruitment and selection policy (revised April 2014). The aim is to ensure that all appointments of staff are made on the basis of merit and in accordance with equal opportunities.

Learning and development

We actively promote the development of our staff and encourage all staff to take up their entitlement to five days a year learning. We subscribe to Civil Service Learning, a service which provides courses and resources for developing skills common to all UK civil servants. This supports a blended approach to learning which is also convenient and cost-effective. Individual needs are set out in personal development plans and are met through appropriate means, including e-learning, face-to-face learning and taking part in projects, coaching and job shadowing.

Staff engagement and wellbeing

We promote staff engagement through various channels including all staff and team meetings, the Staff Forum, our annual staff conference and ad hoc working groups. Staff surveys ensure a more formal feedback mechanism to obtain and respond to staff feedback. In 2015/16 75% of staff responded to the staff survey and 98% have a clear understanding of the HFEA's purpose. All staff have access to an employee assistance provider for confidential advice and support if necessary.

Disabled employees

In 2007-08 we achieved ✓✓ 'positive about disabled people' disability symbol status. We have a specific policy of inviting to interview any candidate with a disability who meets essential criteria. Support is provided for all staff who have, or develop, a disability including making any reasonable adjustments to the workplace or work processes and having advice available through the occupational health service.

Equality Act 2010 – equality and diversity on pay

We remain compliant with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and there is an equality champion on the Authority (our board of directors and appointed members). We continue collectively to ensure, throughout the year, that we fulfil our obligations under the Equality Act.

All posts are systematically evaluated, against a formal job evaluation scheme 'Paypoints II', aiming to ensure that salaries are internally consistent, fair and equitable.

Our gender breakdown at 31 March 2016, of Authority members, permanent and seconded staff, is as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
Authority members	5	7	12
Senior Management Team (SMT)	2	2	4
All staff (including SMT, excluding Authority)	23	42	65

Social, community, sustainability, human rights and environmental issues

During 2015/16 we were sub-tenants of the Care Quality Commission (CQC), in Finsbury Tower.

We collaborated with the CQC on a number of issues, including health and safety services - we have adopted the CQC's online system for individual workplace assessment and follow the CQC lead on fire evacuation procedures and fire warden liaison.

We recycle paper, card, glass, plastic cups, containers and bottles, metal cans and toner cartridges. There are two multi-function devices (for secure printing, scanning and photocopying) that are pre-set to print on both sides of the paper and in black and white. IT equipment is re-used and working lives extended where possible, and is switched off when not in use. Surplus equipment is either sold or donated. Many staff are enabled to work from home, reducing the impact on the environment.

We are aware of the green agenda in relation to procurement and we use the Crown Commercial Service and other frameworks which have sustainability factored in.

Mr Peter Thompson
Chief Executive
Accounting Officer

27 June 2016

Accountability

Corporate governance report

Directors' report

Our board (the Authority)

Our board is made up of 12 members appointed through an open public process. Authority members during 2015/16 are set out below. Biographies for each can be found on our website.

Authority member	Appointment start date	Appointment end date
Sally Cheshire (Chair)	7 November 2006	31 March 2017
David Archard (Deputy Chair)	1 November 2005	31 October 2016
Susan Price	1 February 2006	31 January 2016
Rebekah Dundas	1 January 2007	31 December 2016
Andy Greenfield	9 November 2009	31 December 2018
Alan Thornhill	9 November 2009	31 December 2015
Lee Rayfield	23 April 2012	22 March 2018
Kate Brian	12 November 2014	11 November 2017
Anthony Rutherford	12 November 2014	11 November 2017
Yacoub Khalaf	30 April 2015	31 March 2018
Margaret Gilmore	30 April 2015	31 March 2018
Anita Bharucha	30 April 2015	31 March 2018
Anne Lampe	1 February 2016	31 January 2019
Ruth Wilde	1 January 2016	31 December 2018

Senior Management Team

Our Chief Executive and directors, and their responsibilities, during 2015/16 are set out below.

Peter Thompson Chief Executive HR Legal		
Sue Gallone[2] Director of Finance and Resources	Juliet Tizzard Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs	Nick Jones Director of Compliance and Information
Budgeting Accounting Financial control Audit and risk assurance Facilities	Governance and licensing Regulatory policy Engagement and communications Business planning Programme management	Inspection and clinical governance Business support Information and the Register development and analysis

Interests of Authority members and senior staff

We maintain a register of interests which is available on our website at www.hfea.gov.uk/Authority-members.html.

Pensions

Pension benefits are mainly provided by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). We recognise the contributions payable for the year. Full details of the pension scheme are included in the Remuneration report.

Data incidents

Arrangements for data security and any personal data-related incidents are set out in the annual governance statement.

Our auditors

The Comptroller and Auditor General is appointed by statute to audit us.

The fees of the National Audit Office are set out in note three to the accounts. No fees were incurred for non-audit work.

[2] Sue Gallone is employed by the HTA and is seconded to the HFEA for 1.5 days per week (2.5 days up to November 2015).

Disclosure of information to our auditors

I have taken all the necessary steps to make myself aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that our auditors, the National Audit Office (NAO), are aware of that information. So far as I and the other directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the NAO is unaware.

Statement of Accounting Officer's responsibilities

Under Section 6(1) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended), we are required to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year in the form, and on the basis determined by, the Secretary of State, advised by HM Treasury.

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, and must show a true and fair view of our state of affairs at the year-end, our net expenditure, changes in taxpayers' equity and cash flow for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government financial reporting manual, and in particular to:

- observe the accounts directions issued by the Secretary of State, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis
- state whether applicable accounting standards, as set out in the Government financial reporting manual, have been followed and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis as there are now no formal grounds to consider this inappropriate.

The Accounting Officer of the Department of Health (DH) has designated our Chief Executive as the Accounting Officer for the organisation. His responsibilities include responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which he is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding our assets, as set out in 'Managing public money' published by the HM Treasury.

Accounts direction

The statement of accounts is prepared in a form directed by the Secretary of State for Health dated 18 June 2007, in accordance with section six of the 1990 Act (as amended).

Authority statement

Our Senior Management Team, the Audit and Governance Committee and the Authority have reviewed the annual report and accounts. I confirm that they are fair, complete and understandable and provide the information necessary for stakeholders to assess our performance.

Governance statement

This statement sets out our governance and control framework during 2015/16 and the risks to HFEA performance. It explains how I have discharged my responsibility, as Accounting Officer, to manage and control the HFEA's resources in 2015/16.

The picture is good, with strong performance from the Authority, committees and the executive, and a clean bill of health from internal audit. There have been changes in Authority membership, as members reached the end of their terms, and continuing members and the executive have provided continuity. There have been significant changes to our IT platform during the year, with more planned in 2016/17 through our IfQ programme. There have been no governance issues or incidents in 2015/16.

Governance framework

Our governance framework is set out in the HFE Act 1990 (as amended) and its approved standing orders.

Our board (the Authority)

The Authority comprises 12 members. Early in the year we welcomed new members Anita Bharucha, Margaret Gilmore and Yacoub Khalaf to replace members whose term had come to an end. Towards the end of 2015/16 members Susan Price and Alan Thornhill reached the end of their term and Ruth Wilde and Anne Lampe joined the Authority in January and February 2016 respectively.

There have been six Authority meetings in the past year (2015/16), all of which were quorate. All the Authority's meetings are open to the public and an audio recording is subsequently made available on our website. The Authority has also held a number of workshop sessions before its public meetings, which it has used to discuss future strategy and work on other policy matters. In March 2016 we hosted our annual conference principally for the fertility sector's stakeholders.

The papers on which the Authority (and its committees) rely are subject to a rigorous internal assurance process, overseen by the relevant member of the Senior Management Team (SMT). Feedback from members of the Authority, and the annual review of committees, suggests that the papers and information provided to them is of high quality and accuracy.

Statutory and standing committees

The Authority has several committees to which it delegates a number of its functions. The following table sets out each committee alongside their frequency and attendance details.

Committee	Membership at 31 March 2016	Number of meetings 2015/16	Attendance rate
Authority	12	6	83%
Appointments Committee	3	1	100%
Audit and Governance Committee	5	4	83%
Executive Licensing Panel	12	25	100%
Licence Committee	6	7	100%
Register Research Panel	4	3	100%

Remuneration Committee	3	1	100%
Statutory Approvals Committee	6	12	100%
Scientific and Clinical Advances Advisory Committee	5	3	87%

The Executive

The Authority and its committees are supported in their work by the Executive, led by the Chief Executive (the Authority's Accounting Officer) and three directors, collectively the Senior Management Team (SMT).

The SMT are:

- Peter Thompson – Chief Executive
- Nick Jones – Director of Compliance and Information
- Juliet Tizzard – Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs
- Sue Gallone – Director of Finance and Resources (shared with the HTA).

The SMT have been in post throughout the year. The Director of Finance and Resources (and the Head of Finance) are shared with the HTA. While this arrangement is not without its challenges, especially during particularly pressured times of the year such as the preparation and delivery of the annual report and accounts, the Chief Executive is confident that the risks are being handled appropriately and effectively.

The SMT and Corporate Management Group (CMG) oversee the delivery of our business plan. CMG is chaired by the Chief Executive and attended by the directors and heads of department, and meets once a month as a minimum. It also considers strategic risks before the Audit and Governance Committee (see below).

The Executive's Programme Board oversees individual projects and ensures that suitable controls are in place. Risk assessment and management are substantial aspects of this oversight arrangement, with the project manager and sometimes also the project sponsor (usually a director) reporting to the Programme Board at regular intervals. In turn, the Programme Board reports to CMG every month, with a highlight report covering each live project.

IfQ has its own separate governance and reporting arrangements, including a separate Programme Board, owing to its large size and separate DH-approved funding stream.

Corporate governance

Like other ALBs in the health and care sector, we have a framework agreement with the DH which defines the critical elements of our relationship with them. The way in which we work with the DH, and how we both discharge our accountability responsibilities effectively, is outlined in the agreement. The Chair and Chief Executive meet the Senior Departmental Sponsor (SDS) at the DH for a formal annual accountability review and informally throughout the year. In addition, the SMT meets other DH officials at quarterly intervals, and has regular contact as issues require. Representatives from the DH are also present as observers at ordinary meetings of the Authority and at the Audit and Governance Committee.

The operational objectives that help us deliver our corporate strategy are set out in the annual business plan. Drafts of this document are shared with the DH in advance and quarterly monitoring information is

also submitted to them. Along with meetings with the SDS and other officials at the DH, this provides assurance that the delivery of objectives is on track.

Our system of corporate governance complies with the requirements of the 'Corporate governance in central Government departments: code of good practice', in so far as they relate to ALBs. It is designed to ensure that sufficient oversight of operational matters is held by our Authority and Audit and Governance Committee, while allowing for clear accountability and internal control systems at Executive level.

Effectiveness and performance

We have achieved our core statutory functions of licensing and regulating fertility clinics, maintaining a register of treatments and a Code of Practice, and increasing and informing choice for patients. In common with all public sector organisations, we have done so under continued pressure on our financial resources and staff.

We look to improve and make more efficient the way in which we engage with significant matters of policy and operational delivery. One of the ways in which the Authority makes better use of its time is through 'workshop' sessions before full Authority meetings, at which the Authority has discussed issues such as mitochondrial donation, information for patients on the website and IfQ. This way of working makes more efficient and productive use of member and executive time and allows better informed decision-making.

This, along with the annual review of committee effectiveness and consequent changes to governance and standing orders, gives assurance that the exercise of our statutory functions is delegated appropriately and legally, adhering to the recommendations outlined in the Harris review[3].

Members of the Authority and the Chief Executive have their performance assessed by the Chair (or, in the case of the Chair, by the SDS). No issues of performance have been raised and the Chief Executive is assured that the arrangements in place for internal control are robust and fit for purpose.

Annual reviews of committee effectiveness

As is good practice, every year our committees undertake a review of their effectiveness. In general, the feedback from the committees was good, with defensible, evidenced decisions being made on the basis of robust paperwork.

Issues that emerged were some specific challenges in achieving quoracy in committee meetings, the need to increase the use of technology to enable more effective meetings and the need to amend the terms of reference for the Scientific and Clinical Advances Advisory Committee to make its patient information role more explicit. These conclusions were considered at a full Authority meeting and action has been taken to ensure that committee meetings are quorate and well-supported.

Highlights of Authority and committee reports

The Authority considered a wide variety of issues in 2015/16. Its focus has been on continuing to deliver the strategy that shapes our activities between 2014 and 2017, introducing the licensing apparatus needed to process applications for mitochondrial donation, overseeing the IfQ programme and addressing issues in the sector with legal parenthood consents.

Our Licence Committee, Statutory Approvals Committee, and the Executive Licensing Panel have handled the core business of considering licence applications and issues, applications for embryo testing and applications for importing or exporting embryos, sperm and eggs.

[3] Available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-into-delegation-of-approval-functions-under-the-mental-health-act-1983.

The Scientific and Clinical Advances Advisory Committee has provided high-quality advice and exercised its delegated functions appropriately, while the Audit and Governance Committee continues to give the Authority assurance that financial and risk management systems are in place and of appropriate scrutiny to ensure adherence. The Audit and Governance Committee continues to take a theme-based approach to its meetings, giving it a broad outlook over the organisation and its operations. It has exercised its delegated functions, including approval of this statement, on behalf of the Authority.

The Remuneration and Appointments committees continue to consider matters pertaining to human resources, remuneration, and the appointment of external committee members and advisers.

Risk and capability

Given the variety and complexity of the risks we face, our overall appetite for risk is low. The framework we have in place to identify and manage risk is appropriate and allows for reasonable controls to be in place, without impacting on the successful delivery of our objectives.

A comprehensive description of current risk management procedures is set out in our risk policy that was reviewed and updated in January 2015 and will be updated later in 2016/17.

Our system of internal risk management gives assurance that the risks we face when exercising our statutory functions are managed appropriately and mitigated against proportionately. Risks are formally managed at several different levels, as follows:

- strategic risk register – capturing risks to the delivery of our strategy and business plan
- operational risk logs – capturing team level risks to functional delivery
- project/programme risk logs – capturing risks to successful project delivery
- internal incidents system – an adjunct to the risk system, which enables understanding of, and corporate learning from, internal adverse events.

The Authority and its Audit and Governance Committee consider the strategic risk register, which is populated by CMG based on ongoing consideration of risks to delivering our strategy, including any major current operational risks. Teams each maintain a risk log capturing their own operational level risks, and the top risks are regularly shared at CMG risk meetings. This allows for the management of risk to be embedded in the organisation from the bottom up.

Projects are scrutinised by our Programme Board. Risk assessment and management are a substantial aspect of this oversight arrangement and the project manager and sometimes also the project sponsor (usually a director) must report to the Programme Board at monthly intervals. In turn, the Programme Board reports to CMG every month, with a highlight report outlining progress, risks and issues for each live project.

The reputational and organisational significance of our IfQ programme is such that we have put in place a dedicated programme support team, which maintains a risk register specifically for the IfQ programme. The IfQ Programme Board reviews risk regularly and IfQ risks are reported on as a standing item to the monthly meetings of CMG. Similarly, the senior responsible officer of the IfQ programme provides assurance to the Authority and the Audit and Governance Committee at every meeting of the programme's progress.

Our system of internal risk management gives assurance that the risks we face when exercising our statutory functions are managed appropriately and mitigated against proportionately.

Regulatory risk

We also take a risk-based approach to the way we regulate the fertility sector, in order to ensure that our regulatory action is targeted and proportionate. Our risk-based assessment tool allows such an approach and (like all other processes we use in carrying out our functions) is subject to a rigorous quality assurance regime, in line with the Macpherson review recommendations[4].

Risk assessment

Our key strategic risks relate to the need to successfully deliver the IfQ programme and improve our engagement channels, the usage and accuracy of our Register information, and achieving promised efficiencies. We also track systemic regulatory risks such as the potential for poor quality or unsafe care, or any loss of our authority as a regulator. Other risks include risks to our data or information accuracy, legal challenges, and our staff capacity and capability. Our ongoing mitigating activities are managed and monitored through the systems described earlier. The IfQ programme, once complete, will help in continuing to minimise the risk to our data and information, while our robust governance and decision-making arrangements mitigate against the controllable elements of the risk of legal challenge. Like all public sector organisations, we continue to face capacity and capability risks that we manage through good internal communications, staff engagement and our performance management process. During the year we have changed our IT platform and prepared for an office move that took place on 8 April 2016. The risks arising from these changes have been managed in the same way.

We also started to do risk assurance mapping in 2015/16, with the help of our internal auditors. This activity, which will be ongoing, will help us to assess the effectiveness of our risk control framework and identify any improvements we can make. Our first risk assurance workshop took place in February 2016, and focused on capability and capacity risks.

Information management and security

As the holder of the statutory Register of fertility treatments, we take our responsibilities for information security most seriously and have a low tolerance for information risks. Keeping secure the information we hold, particularly sensitive personal patient data, is of the highest priority, and this principle will frame our approach to the implementation of the IfQ programme in the coming year.

There were no data losses within the last year and we continue to work hard to ensure that remains the case.

Whistleblowing arrangements

Our Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) policy sets out how any concerns can be raised by staff and what action would be taken. It aims to reassure staff that they should raise concerns openly and that there will be no repercussions for them if they raise concerns in good faith. The policy has been communicated to staff through line management and our intranet.

As well as line management and HR channels, staff can approach the NAO hotline and Public Concern at Work for advice.

During the year there have been no concerns raised under whistleblowing arrangements. Staff raise issues and make suggestions as part of day to day working in line with our culture.

[4] Available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-quality-assurance-of-government-models.

Internal incidents

Our Executive maintains an internal incident procedure, which ensures that any process failures are quickly and thoroughly investigated. This allows SMT to learn lessons and correct potential procedural failures. The system and associated documentation will be reviewed during 2016/17, to bring it in line with our other documentation and overall brand.

Overall conclusion

We are now two years into implementing the strategy introduced in 2014. During 2016/17 we will start to assess our progress so far and develop our future strategy for 2017-2020. Key to our delivery of the current strategy will be the completion of the IfQ programme, which will remain a major focus for the year ahead.

We have embedded improved risk management processes and I am assured that a robust governance and assurance framework is in place, that our risks are managed proportionately, and that appropriate financial controls are in effect. My assessment has been informed also by internal audit reviews during the year of IfQ, requests for information, incident handling and assurance mapping of capacity and resilience. I have noted the moderate annual opinion of our internal audit which relate to risk management, governance and control. As we look to the future, I have full confidence that we will continue to develop assurance mechanisms, while improving the quality of our work and seeking to provide best value for public finances and patients.

Mr Peter Thompson
Chief Executive
Accounting Officer **27 June 2016**

Remuneration report

Audit

Specific areas of the Remuneration report are audited by NAO), the HFEA's external auditors. These sections cover salary and pension data in the tables, non-cash benefits and amounts payable to third parties for services of senior staff.

Reward systems and approval mechanisms for staff

Our remuneration recommendations are based on the Civil Service pay guidance issued annually by HM Treasury.

Pay awards were made to eligible staff in 2015/16 in accordance with the Government limit of 1% of the total pay-bill. This is the same as the previous year.

Pay levels are reviewed annually through the Remuneration Committee, which has specific responsibility to monitor overall levels of remuneration and to approve the remuneration of the Chief Executive and the directors (see below).

Duration of contracts, notice periods and termination payments

Members of staff in bands one (assistant grade) and two (officers) have six weeks' notice of termination of their contracts. Members of staff in band three (managers) and above have three months' notice of termination of their contracts. Termination payments are made only in appropriate circumstances. In cases where gross misconduct has occurred, no termination payments are made.

Authority members

The remuneration levels of Authority members are set nationally and are summarised in the table below. Revisions are made in accordance with the agreement on the pay framework for ALB chairs and non-executive directors, announced in March 2006. We implement the revisions when instructed.

No pension contributions or bonuses were paid on behalf of any Authority member in 2015/16.

Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee Chair receives a fee of £273 per day. The Deputy Chair receives a fee of £208 per day and the committee's members receive a fee of £190 per day. No pension contributions were paid on behalf of any Appeals Committee member.

The Chair of the Appeals Committee, Mr Jonathan Watt-Pringle received payments totalling £3,364. Mr Watt-Pringle's term of office ended on 30 September 2015. No payments were made to the Deputy Chair of the Appeals Committee, Ms Hilary Newiss, during the year. Other Appeals Committee members Samuel Stein and Catharine Seddon received £1,707 and £1,517 respectively.

End of service

Staff can access their Civil Service pension at different times, depending on the scheme they are in. The normal pension age for those in the classic/premium scheme is 60, for those in the Nuvos scheme it is 65 and for those in the Alpha scheme it is the later of 65 or the state pension age. However, some staff may wish to work beyond these ages.

Early termination, other than for misconduct, would result in the individual receiving compensation as set out in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

Remuneration and benefits to Authority members for the year ending 31 March 2016

Name	Salary range £000s	Expenses (to nearest £100) £	Total £000s	Salary range £000s	Expenses (to nearest £100) £	Total £000s
	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16	2014/15	2014/15	2014/15
Sally Cheshire (Chair)	45-50	14,500	60-65	45-50	12,200	55-60
David Archard (Deputy Chair)	5-10	5,300	10-15	5-10	7,600	15-20
Susan Price*	5-10	2,100	5-10	5-10	3,000	10-15
Rebekah Dundas	10-15	5,600	15-20	10-15	8,400	20-25
Andy Greenfield	5-10	1,400	5-10	5-10	2,300	10-15
Alan Thornhill*	5-10	0	5-10	5-10	0	5-10
Lee Rayfield	5-10	1,100	5-10	5-10	1,600	5-10
Kate Brian	5-10	0	5-10	0-5	0	0-5
Anthony Rutherford	5-10	900	5-10	0-5	500	0-5
Yacoub Khalaf	5-10	0	5-10	N/a	N/a	N/a
Margaret Gilmore	5-10	1,700	5-10	N/a	N/a	N/a
Anita Bharucha	5-10	800	5-10	N/a	N/a	N/a
Anne Lampe*	0-5	900	0-5	N/a	N/a	N/a
Ruth Wilde*	0-5	200	0-5	N/a	N/a	N/a

*Members who joined/left part way through the year.

Benefits in kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by us and treated by HMRC as a taxable emolument. We have agreed a PAYE settlement agreement (PSA) with HMRC in regards to taxable emoluments of Authority members and some of our compliance staff, for the travel, accommodation, meals and subsistence for which we pay the tax and national insurance due. Benefits in kind have been shown net of tax and national insurance.

Information regarding travel and subsistence claimed by Authority members and senior management is published on our website www.hfea.gov.uk.

Chief Executive and directors

The Chief Executive's pay is set in accordance with the recommendation of the Chair, subject to the review of the Remuneration Committee and with the agreement of the DH. This is in accordance with the pay framework for very senior managers in ALBs, informed by the Senior Staff Salaries Review Board.

Remuneration of the directors must be approved by the Remuneration Committee and is based on proposals received from the Chief Executive, in accordance with the pay framework for very senior managers in ALBs.

The members of the Remuneration Committee during the year were Sally Cheshire (Chair), David Archard and Rebekah Dundas.

Remuneration and pension benefits

Name	Salary (£'000)		Bonus payments (£'000)		Benefits in kind (to nearest £'000)		Pension benefits[5] (£'000)		Total (£'000	
	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15
Peter Thompson Chief Executive	135-140	135-140	0	0-5	0	0	49	35	185-190	170-175
Nick Jones Director of Compliance and Information	95-100	95-100	0	0	0	0	37	36	130-135	130-135
Juliet Tizzard Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs	90-95	85-90	0	0	0	0	41	42	130-135	125-130
Sue Gallone[6] Director of Finance and Resources	40-45	45-50	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	40-45	45-50 (Fte 90-95)

[5] The value of pension benefits accrued during the year is calculated as (the real increase in pension multiplied by 20) plus (the real increase in any lump sum) less (the contributions made by the individual). The real increases exclude increases due to inflation or any increase or decreases due to a transfer of pension rights.

[6] Sue Gallone is employed by the HTA and seconded to HFEA. A proportion of her costs are charged to us.

Median pay and multiples

	2015/16	2014/15
Band of highest paid director's gross salary only	£135k-£140k	£135k-£140k
Median total remuneration	£36,541	£36,360
Ratio – gross salary only	3.73	3.76

The FReM reporting requirements require public sector bodies to disclose the relationship between the total remuneration of the highest-paid director in their organisation and the median remuneration of the organisation's workforce.

The highest paid director for this comparison was the Chief Executive. The gross salary only and related ratio show a fairer position for year-on-year comparison.

There has been very little movement in this ratio since last year.

We are a London-based small expert organisation whose work requires scientific and other professional or graduate-level skills. Consequently, median pay remains higher than that for a number of other public sector bodies.

Staff report

The HFEA has a headcount of 65 staff members excluding Authority members and including the SMT. Below is a breakdown of staff costs and an analysis of directly employed staff.

	Permanently employed staff	Members	2015/16 Total	2014/15 Total
	£	£	£	£
Salaries and wages	3,046,070	140,218	3,186,288	3,170,215
Social security costs	196,829	6,130	202,959	234,007
Other pension costs	545,329	0	545,329	496,298
Net staff costs	**3,788,228**	**146,348**	**3,934,576**	**3,900,520**

Average number of persons employed

	Permanent	Seconded	2015/16 Total	2014/15 Total
SCS	3.0	0.45	3.45	3.5
Other	62.18	1.21	62.39	60.73
Total	65.18	1.66	66.84	64.23

Sickness and absences

Our sickness absence aim is to lose no more than 3% of time in staff sickness absence and in 2015/16 we achieved 2.1%. This compares favourably with the public sector sickness absence rate average which is 3.5% (IRS Survey 2011).

Off-payroll assurance statement

We have not entered into any off-payroll engagements during the 2015/16 financial year (2014/15 nil).

Remuneration and pension entitlements

The Government financial reporting manual (FReM) requires us to provide information on the remuneration and pension rights of the named individuals who are our most senior managers.

The following table provides details of the remuneration and pensions of the Chief Executive and directors. These figures are subject to audit.

The pension entitlements of the most senior managers in the HFEA

Name and position	Real increase in pension age 60	Real increase in lump sum	Total accrued pension at age 60 at 31 March 2016	Related lump sum at 31 March 2016	CETV at 1 April 2015	CETV at 31 March 2016	Real increase in CETV as funded by HFEA
	Band	Band	Band	Band	Band	Band	Band
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Peter Thompson Chief Executive	2.5-5	0-2.5	45-50	0-5	724	833	40
	2014/15	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**
	2.5-5	0-2.5	45-50	0-5	660	724	25
Sue Gallone Director of Finance and Resources	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2014/15	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**
	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nick Jones[7] Director of Compliance and Information	0-2.5	0-2.5	10-15	0-5	135	173	16
	2014/15	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**
	0-2.5	0-2.5	10-15	0-5	103	135	18
Juliet Tizzard Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs	0-2.5	0-2.5	15-20	0-5	116	152	18
	2014/15	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**	**2014/15**
	0-2.5	0-2.5	5-10	0-5	81	116	23

[7] Member transferred to Alpha 1 April 2015 therefore there is no increase in pension in real terms.

All senior managers are employed on a permanent basis (except Sue Gallone who is employed by the HTA and seconded to us for part of her time) and are covered by the terms of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.

Definitions

'Salary' includes gross salary, performance pay or bonuses and any other allowance that is subject to UK taxation.

'Total remuneration' includes salary, non-consolidated performance-related pay and benefits in kind as well as severance payments. It does not include employer pension contributions and the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions.

'Benefits in kind' covers the monetary value of any benefits provided by the employer.

This report is based on payments made by us and thus recorded in these accounts.

Civil Service Pensions

Pension benefits are provided through the Civil Service pension arrangements. From 1 April 2015 a new pension scheme for civil servants was introduced – the Civil Servants and Others Pension Scheme or Alpha, which provides benefits on a career average basis with a normal pension age equal to the member's state pension age (or 65 if higher). From that date all newly appointed civil servants and the majority of those already in service joined Alpha. Prior to that date, civil servants participated in the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). The PCSPS has four sections: three providing benefits on a final salary basis (classic, premium or classic plus) with a normal pension age of 60; and one providing benefits on a whole career basis (Nuvos) with a normal pension age of 65.

These statutory arrangements are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. Pensions payable under Classic, Premium, Classic Plus, Nuvos and Alpha are increased annually in line with pensions increase legislation. Existing members of the PCSPS who were within 10 years of their normal pension age on 1 April 2012 remained in the PCSPS after 1 April 2015. Those who were between 10 years and 13 years and five months from their normal pension age on 1 April 2012 will switch into Alpha sometime between 1 June 2015 and 1 February 2022. All members who switch to Alpha have their PCSPS benefits 'banked', with those with earlier benefits in one of the final salary sections of the PCSPS having those benefits based on their final salary when they leave Alpha. (The pension figures quoted for officials show pension earned in PCSPS or Alpha – as appropriate. Where the official has benefits in both the PCSPS and alpha the figure quoted is the combined value of their benefits in the two schemes.) Members joining from October 2002 may opt for either the appropriate defined benefit arrangement or a 'money purchase' stakeholder pension with an employer contribution (partnership pension account).

Employee contributions are salary-related and range between 3% and 8.05% of pensionable earnings for members of Classic (and members of Alpha who were members of Classic immediately before joining Alpha) and between 4.6% and 8.05% for members of Premium, Classic Plus, Nuvos and all other members of Alpha. Benefits in Classic accrue at the rate of 1/80th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years initial pension is payable on retirement. For Premium, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike Classic, there is no automatic lump sum. Classic Plus is essentially a hybrid with benefits for service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly as per Classic and benefits for service from October 2002 worked out as in Premium. In Nuvos a member builds up a pension based on his pensionable earnings during their period of scheme membership. At the end of the scheme year (31 March) the member's earned pension account is credited with 2.3% of their pensionable earnings in that scheme

year and the accrued pension is uprated in line with pensions increase legislation. Benefits in Alpha build up in a similar way to Nuvos, except that the accrual rate in 2.32%. In all cases members may opt to give up (commute) pension for a lump sum up to the limits set by the Finance Act 2004.

The partnership pension account is a stakeholder pension arrangement. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 3% and 12.5% up to 30 September 2015 and 8% and 14.75% from 1 October 2015 (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee from a panel of providers. The employee does not have to contribute, but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3% of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.8% of pensionable salary up to 30 September 2015 and 0.5% of pensionable salary from 1 October 2015 to cover the cost of centrally-provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

The accrued pension quoted is the pension the member is entitled to receive when they reach pension age, or immediately on ceasing to be an active member of the scheme if they are already at or over pension age. Pension age is 60 for members of Classic, Premium and Classic Plus, 65 for members of Nuvos, and the higher of 65 or state pension age for members of Alpha. (The pension figures quoted for officials show pension earned in PCSPS or Alpha – as appropriate. Where the official has benefits in both the PCSPS and Alpha the figure quoted is the combined value of their benefits in the two schemes, but note that part of that pension may be payable from different ages.)

For 2015/16, employer's contributions of £531,566 were payable to the PCSPS in respect of staff directly employed by us (2014/15: £496,298) at one of four rates in the range 16.7% to 24.3% of pensionable pay, based on salary bands.

Further details about the Civil Service pension arrangements can be found at the website www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk.

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies.

The figures include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the member has transferred to the Civil Service pension arrangements. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their buying additional pension benefits at their own cost. CETVs are worked out in accordance with 'The occupational pension schemes (transfer values) (amendment) regulations 2008' and do not take account of any actual or potential reduction to benefits resulting from lifetime allowance tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

Real increase in CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV that is funded by the employer. It does not include the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Audit

All tabular data contained in this remuneration report together with employer pension contributions are subject to audit.

Mr Peter Thompson
Chief Executive
Accounting Officer **27 June 2016**

Parliamentary accountability and audit report

Accountability (the details below are subject to audit)

Fees and charges

Our licence fees are set to recover the full cost incurred in the granting of licences and regulation. The table below shows the income from each sector, other income for licensing activities and the costs of licensing activities.

	March 2015/16	March 2014/15
	£	£
Licence fee income	4,215,582	4,035,493
Costs allocated to regulatory activity	(4,190,850)	(4,796,950)
Surplus/(Deficit)	**24,732**	**(761,457)**

We confirm that we have complied with the cost allocation and charging requirements as set out in HM Treasury's guidance.

In addition, there are elements of our work that do not relate directly to the cost of regulating the sectors below. The DH accordingly contributes to the funding of these activities through the provision of grant-in-aid.

Losses and special payments

Losses and special payments are items that Parliament would not have contemplated when it agreed funds for health service or passed legislation. By their nature they are items that should not arise and are therefore subject to special controls. The HFEA had no losses or special payments in 2015/16.

Remote contingent liabilities

There are no remote contingent liabilities this year.

The certificate and report of the Controller and Auditor General to the Houses of Parliament

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority ("the Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2016 under the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 1990 amended to the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 2008. The financial statements comprise: the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows, the Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity; and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them. I have also audited the information in the Remuneration and Staff Report and the Parliamentary Accountability Disclosures that is described in that report as having been audited.

Respective responsibilities of the Authority, Accounting Officer and Auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Authority's and Accounting Officer's Responsibilities, the Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. My responsibility is to audit, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 1990 amended to the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 2008. I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Authority; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition I read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my certificate.

I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Opinion on financial statements

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Authority's affairs as at 31 March 2016 and of its net expenditure, changes in taxpayers' equity and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 1990 amended to theHuman Fertilisation & Embryology Act 2008 and Secretary of State directions issued thereunde.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion:

- the part of Remuneration and Staff Report and the Parliamentary Accountability disclosures to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Secretary of State's directions issued under the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 1990 amended to the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 2008.
- the information given in the Performance Report and Accountability Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my staff; or
- the financial statements and the parts of the Remuneration and Staff Report and the Parliamentary Accountability disclosures to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with HM Treasury's guidance

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

Amyas C E Morse
Comptroller and Auditor General
National Audit Office
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria, London **29 June 2016**

Financial statements

Statement of comprehensive net expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2016

	NOTE	**March 2015/16 £**	March 2014/15 £
Income			
Income from activities	4	4,215,582	4,035,493
Other operating income	4	522	52,863
		4,216,104	4,088,356
Expenditure			
Staff costs	3	3,934,576	3,900,520
Purchase of goods and services	3	255,697	530,050
Depreciation and impairment charges	3	47,578	60,866
Loss on disposal of assets	3	864	0
Other operating expenditure	3	906,848	1,224,628
		5,145,563	5,716,064
Net operating expenditure		**(929,459)**	(1,627,708)
Finance income	4	54,965	5,810
Finance expense	4	0	0
Net expenditure for the year		**(874,494)**	(1,621,898)
Taxation		(10,989)	(1,277)
Net comprehensive (expenditure) for the year		**(885,483)**	(1,623,175)

The notes on pages 48 to 62 form part of these accounts.

Statement of financial position as at 31 March 2016

	NOTE	31 March 2016 £	31 March 2015 £
Non-current assets:			
Property, information technology and office equipment	5	**85,029**	48,576
Intangible assets	6	**467,122**	49,513
Total non-current assets		**552,151**	98,089
Current assets:			
Trade and other receivables	8	**757,006**	947,593
Cash and cash equivalents	9	**2,157,260**	2,020,591
Total current assets		**2,914,266**	2,968,184
Total assets		**3,466,417**	3,066,273
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	**(422,614)**	(348,492)
Provisions	11	**(98,214)**	(19,079)
Total current liabilities		**(520,828)**	(367,571)
Non-current assets less net current liabilities		**2,945,589**	2,698,702
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	11	**0**	87,630
Total non-current liabilities		**0**	87,630
Total assets less liabilities		**2,945,589**	2,611,072
FINANCED BY:			
Taxpayers' equity			
I&E reserve		**(2,945,589)**	(2,611,072)
Total taxpayers' equity:		**(2,945,589)**	(2,611,072)

The notes on pages 48 to 62 form part of these accounts.

The financial statements on pages 44 to 47 were approved by the board on 27 June 2016 and signed on its behalf by

Mr Peter Thompson
Chief Executive

Date: **27 June 2016**

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2016

	NOTE	2015/16 £	2014/15 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net operating surplus/(deficit) after interest		**(874,494)**	(1,621,898)
Depreciation and amortisation	3	**47,578**	60,866
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	8	**190,587**	133,958
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	10	**74,122**	(51,596)
Loss on disposals of non-current assets	3	**864**	0
Taxation		**(10,989)**	(1,277)
Use of provisions	11	**(8,495)**	(203,141)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		**(580,828)**	(1,683,088)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		**0**	0
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	5	**(62,035)**	0
Purchase of intangible assets	6	**(440,568)**	(20,228)
Proceeds of disposal of property, plant and equipment		**100**	0
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities		**(502,503)**	(20,228)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Grants from sponsoring department		**1,220,000**	920,000
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities		**1,220,000**	920,000
Net financing		**136,669**	(783,316)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period	9	**136,669**	(783,316)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	9	**2,020,591**	2,803,907
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period		**2,157,260**	2,020,591

As at 31 March 2016 there were no fixed asset accruals (2014/15 £Nil).

The notes on pages 48 to 62 form part of these accounts

Statement of changes in taxpayers' equity
For the year ended 31 March 2016

	Total I&E reserve
	£
Balance at 1 April 2014	3,314,247
Changes in taxpayers' equity for 2014/15	
Grant from Department of Health	920,000
Comprehensive income/(expenditure) for the year	(1,623,175)
Balance at 31 March 2015	**2,611,072**
Changes in taxpayers' equity for the year ended 31 March 2016	
Grant from Department of Health	1,220,000
Comprehensive income/(expenditure) for the year	(885,483)
Balance at 31 March 2016	**2,945,589**

The notes on pages 48 to 62 form part of these accounts

Notes to the accounts

1. Statement of accounting policies

The HFEA accounts are prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended) and an Accounts Direction issued by the Secretary of State for Health in June 2007.

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the accounting and disclosure requirements given in HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual (FReM), insofar as these are appropriate to the HFEA and are in force for the financial year for which the statements are prepared. The accounting policies contained in the FReM apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adapted or interpreted for the public sector context.

Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which is judged to be the most appropriate to the particular circumstance of the HFEA for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected.

The particular policies adopted by the HFEA are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items that are considered material to the accounts.

1.1 Accounting convention

These financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

1.2 Non-current assets

Non-current assets include property, information technology, and office equipment together with intangible assets which relate to constructed software and software licenses. Only items, or groups of related items, costing £1,000 or more and with individual values over £250, are capitalised. Those costing less are treated as revenue expenditure.

All property, plant and equipment and intangible assets held by the HFEA at 31 March 2016 are carried in the statement of financial position at depreciated (property, plant and equipment) or amortised (intangible assets) historical cost. The depreciated or amortised historical cost is used as a proxy for fair value, for the classes of assets listed below, since the useful life over which the asset class is depreciated or amortised is considered to be a realistic reflection of the consumption of that asset class.

1.3 Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the HFEA accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered relevant. Actual results may differ from those estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed annually. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

1.4 Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on all non-current assets on a monthly basis from the date of acquisition at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset evenly over its expected useful life.

Expected useful lives are as follows:

Information technology	4 years
Office equipment	5 years
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	5 years

Amortisation is provided on intangible non-current assets (which comprise constructed software and software licences) on a monthly basis at a rate calculated to write off the cost of each intangible asset over its expected useful life. The expected useful life of this software is four years.

1.5 Grant-in-aid

Grant-in-aid received is used to finance activities and expenditure which supports the statutory and other objectives of the HFEA and is treated as financing and credited to the I&E reserve, because it is regarded as contributions from a controlling party.

1.6 Operating income

Licence fee income is recognised at the time of treatment date.

An estimate of the income for treatments provided by the clinics, but not reported to the HFEA, at 31 March 2016, is accrued. This is calculated by clinics in a report from the automated billing system (ABS) based on the typical delay between the clinc providing the treatment to the patient and reporting the treatment to the HFEA and the clinic's recently reported monthly treatment numbers.

Deferred income is recognised in respect of income for annual licence fees.

1.7 Operating leases

Operating leases are charged to the accounts on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.8 Pensions

Past and present employees are covered by the provisions of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). The defined benefit elements of the scheme are unfunded and are non-contributory except in respect of dependents' benefits. The HFEA recognises the expected cost of these elements on a systematic and rational basis over the period during which it benefits from employees' services by payment to the PCSPS of amounts calculated on an accruing basis. Liability for payment of future benefits is a charge on the PCSPS. In respect of the defined contribution elements of the scheme, the HFEA recognises the contributions payable for the year.

Further information in respect of Civil Service Pensions is provided in the remuneration report.

1.9 Value added tax

The HFEA was not registered for VAT during financial year 2015/16

1.10 Cash

Cash is cash in hand and deposits with any financial institution repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours.

1.11 Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities arise from the Authority's normal operational activities and are recognised in accordance with standard accruals accounting principles.

The HFEA's financial assets comprise cash at bank and in hand, license fee debtors, balances with central Government bodies, and other debtors. The HFEA's financial liabilities comprise trade creditors and other creditors.

The fair values of financial assets and liabilities are deemed to be their book values, unless there is appropriate cause to apply an alternative basis of valuation.

The HFEA has not entered into any transactions involving derivatives.

1.12 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the HFEA has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that the HFEA will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation. The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of expenditure required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period, taking into account the risks and uncertainties.

2. Operating segments

Under the definition of IFRS 8 the HFEA is a single operating segment as the UK's independent regulator of treatment using eggs and sperm, and of treatment and research involving human embryos, setting standards for, and the issue of licences to, centres together with the provision of information for the public and determining the policy framework for fertility issues.

	Note	March 2015/16 £	March 2014/15 £
3. Operating expenditure			
3.1 Staff costs			
Salaries and wages		**3,545,671**	3,460,613
Members' allowances		**146,348**	138,506
Agency and other temporary costs		**242,557**	301,401
		3,934,576	3,900,520
3.2 Purchase of goods and services			
Professional & administrative fees	a	**199,149**	473,686
Auditors' reumeration and expenses	b	**56,548**	56,364
		255,697	530,050
EU costs		**0**	39,067
3.3 Depreciation and impairment charges			
Depreciation & amortisation	5,6	**47,578**	60,866
Loss on disposal of assets		**864**	0
		48,442	60,866
3.4 Other operating expenses			
Rentals under operating leases		**256,718**	261,945
Running costs	c	**418,205**	719,311
Other staff costs		**221,188**	230,975
Provision provided/(relaeased) in year		**10,737**	(26,670)
		906,848	1,185,561
Total		**5,145,563**	5,716,064

Notes

a) Professional and administrative fees are legal costs incurred this year. There is a significant difference compared to last year due to recovery of legal fees impacting in 2015/16.

b) Audit expenditure is as follows:

	2015/16 £	2014/15 £
External audit	27,500	27,500
Internal audit	29,047	28,864
	56,547	56,364

External audit expenditure is the accrued fee for the NAO for 12 months. The internal audit costs relate to work in 2015-16 with some of the work relating to the IfQ programme.

c) Running costs are significantly lower due to some IfQ costs which have been capitalised.

4. Income

Gross income is made up of licence fee and other incomes which are recorded on an accruals basis.

Analysis of income

	31 March 2016	31 March 2015
	£	£
Licence fee income	4,215,582	4,035,493
Other income-interest	54,965	0
Other operating income	522	58,673
Total income for the year	**4,271,069**	4,094,166

5. Property, plant and equipment

2015/16	Information technology £000's	Office equipment £000's	Furniture & fittings £000's	Total £000's
Cost or valuation:				
At 1 April 2015	**379,975**	**28,728**	**41,310**	**450,013**
Additions purchased	62,035	0	0	**62,035**
Disposals	(36,224)	(7,982)	(20,281)	**(64,487)**
At 31 March 2016	**405,786**	**20,746**	**21,029**	**447,561**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2015	**340,672**	**20,527**	**40,238**	**401,437**
Charged during the year	20,912	3,434	273	**24,619**
Disposals	(35,462)	(7,781)	(20,281)	**(63,524)**
At 31 March 2016	**326,122**	**16,180**	**20,230**	**362,532**
Net Book Value at 31 March 2016	**79,664**	**4,566**	**799**	**85,029**
Net Book Value at 31 March 2015	39,303	8,201	1,072	48,576
Asset financing:				
Owned	79,664	4,566	799	**85,029**
Total at 31 March 2016	**79,664**	**4,566**	**799**	**85,029**

2014/15	Information technology £000's	Office equipment £000's	Furniture & fittings £000's	Total £000's
Cost or valuation:				
At 1 April 2014	**415,068**	**41,648**	**50,973**	**507,689**
Additions purchased	0	0	0	**0**
Disposals	(35,093)	(12,920)	(9,663)	**(57,676)**
At 31 March 2015	**379,975**	**28,728**	**41,310**	**450,013**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2014	**354,205**	**29,050**	**49,437**	**432,692**
Charged during the year	21,560	4,397	464	**26,421**
Disposals	(35,093)	(12,920)	(9,663)	**(57,676)**
At 31 March 2015	**340,672**	**20,527**	**40,238**	**401,437**
Net Book Value at 31 March 2015	**39,303**	**8,201**	**1,072**	**48,576**
Net Book Value at 31 March 2014	60,864	12,598	1,536	74,998
Asset financing:				
Owned	39,303	8,201	1,072	**48,576**
Total at 31 March 2015	**39,303**	**8,201**	**1,072**	**48,576**

6. Intangible assets

2015/16	Software licenses	Constructed software	Asset under construction development expenditure	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation:				
At 1 April 2015	**308,240**	**498,706**	**0**	**806,946**
Additions purchased*	0	0	440,568	440,568
Disposals	(42,707)	0	0	(42,707)
At 31 March 2016	**265,533**	**498,706**	**440,568**	**1,204,807**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2015	**260,298**	**497,135**	**0**	**757,433**
Charged during the year	21,388	1,571	0	22,959
Disposals	(42,707)	0	0	(42,707)
At 31 March 2016	**238,979**	**498,706**	**0**	**737,685**
Net Book Value at 31 March 2016	**26,554**	**0**	**440,568**	**467,122**
Net Book Value at 31 March 2015	**47,942**	**1,571**	**0**	**49,513**
Asset financing:				
Owned	26,554	0	440,568	**467,122**
Total at 31 March 2016	**26,554**	**0**	**440,568**	**467,122**

2014/15	Software Licenses	Constructed Software	Asset under Construction	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation:				
At 1 April 2014	**321,712**	**498,706**	**0**	**820,418**
Additions purchased	20,228	0	0	20,228
Disposals	(33,700)	0	0	(33,700)
At 31 March 2015	**308,240**	**498,706**	**0**	**806,946**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2014	**275,348**	**481,340**	**0**	**756,688**
Charged during the year	18,650	15,795	0	34,445
Disposals	(33,700)	0	0	**(33,701)**
At 31 March 2015	**260,298**	**497,135**	**0**	**757,433**
Net Book Value at 31 March 2015	**47,942**	**1,571**	**0**	**49,513**
Net Book Value at 31 March 2014	46,364	17,366	0	63,730
Asset financing:				
Owned	47,942	1,571	0	49,513
Total at 31 March 2015	**47,942**	**1,571**	**0**	**49,513**

*Relates to developer costs of the IfQ project.

7. Financial instruments

IFRS 7 requires disclosure of the role financial instruments have had during the period in creating or changing the risks an entity faces when undertaking its activities. Financial instruments play a much more limited role in creating or changing risk than would be typical of the listed companies to which IFRS 7 mainly applies. The HFEA has no powers to borrow funds, and financial assets and liabilities are generated by day-to-day operational activities rather than being held to manage the risks facing the HFEA in undertaking its activities.

a) Liquidity risk

The majority of the HFEA's income comes from treatment fees. The fees are based on information provided directly from licenced clinics. This information is processed and returned to clinics in the form of invoices.

There are procedures in place to identify late and non-reporting of treatment cycles by clinics and also procedures for chasing up debts. The remaining main source of revenue is from Government grants made on a cash basis. Therefore, the HFEA is not exposed to significant liquidity risk.

b) Investments and interest rate risk

The HFEA follows an investment policy of placing any surplus funds on overnight deposit in an interest bearing bank account.

Gross interest income was 1.3% of the total revenues of the HFEA. Therefore, the HFEA has no significant exposure to interest rate risk.

c) Credit risk

The HFEA receives most of its income from the clinics it regulates. It operates a robust debt management policy and, where necessary, provides for the risk of particular debts not being discharged by the relevant party, therefore it is not exposed to significant credit risk.

d) Financial assets and liabilities

The only financial asset held at a variable rate was cash at bank of £2,157,260. As at 31 March 2016, none of the HFEA's financial liabilities were carried at a variable rate. The fair value of the financial assets and liabilities was equal to the book value.

e) Foreign currency risk

Consistent with previous accounting periods there were minimal foreign currency transactions conducted by the HFEA during the period ended 31 March 2016. There was therefore no significant foreign currency risk during the year.

8. Trade and other receivables

	31 March 2016 £	31 March 2015 £
Analysis by type		
Trade receivables - licence fee debtors	236,426	438,788
Prepayments and accrued income	504,417	491,374
Other receivables	16,163	17,431
Total	757,006	947,593

Prepayments and accrued income include calculations of the fees due to be invoiced to clinics after the date of the statement of financial position in respect of chargeable treatments undertaken before that date.

Balances with other central government and NHS bodies include accrued income that can be directly attributed to them.

All debts were due for settlement within one year of the date of the statement of financial position. No provision for bad or doubtful debts has been made as all debts are anticipated to be recoverable.

9. Cash and cash equivalents

	31 March 2016 £
Balance at 31 March 2014	2,803,907
Net change in cash	(783,316)
Balance at 31 March 2015	2,020,591
Net change in cash	136,669
Balance at 31 March 2016	**2,157,260**

£1,859,411 of the balance at 31 March 2016 was held with the Government Banking Services (£1,885,290 in 2014/15). The remaining balance was held at commercial banks.

No cash equivalents were held during the year.

10. Trade payables and other current liabilities

	31 March 2016 £	31 March 2015 £
Analysis by type		
Trade payables	9,708	8,227
Accruals and deferred income	404,770	332,527
Other payables	8,136	7,738
Total	**422,614**	348,492

All creditors were due for settlement within one year of the balance sheet date.

11. Provisions

	Legal costs	Early retirement costs	2015/16 Totals	2014/15 Totals
	£	£	£	
Balance at 1 April 2015	**0**	**106,709**	**106,709**	309,850
Provided in period	1,500	9,237	10,737	0
Utilised in the period	0	(19,232)	(19,232)	(176,471)
Release of provision for the period	0	0	0	(26,670)
Balance at 31 March 2016	**1,500**	**96,714**	**98,214**	106,709

Analysis of expected timing of payment or release of provisions	Legal Costs	Early Retirement Costs	2015/16 Totals	2014/15 Totals
	£	£	£	£
No later than one year	1,500	96,714	98,214	19,079
Later than one year and not later than five years	0	0	0	87,630
Later than five years	0	0	0	0
	1,500	**96,714**	**98,214**	106,709

As noted in the remuneration report for financial year 2008/09, early retirement costs were provided in that financial year and the provision reviewed annually. The provision for this year reflects pensions information received in May 2016 and is based on total payments made and pension factors.

12. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments as at 31 March 2016 (2014/15 £Nil).

13. Commitments under leases

Operating leases

The HFEA is committed to the following operating lease payments.

	31 March 2016	31 March 2015
	£	£
Total future minimum lease payments payable:		
Not later than one year	359,665	177,988
Later than one year not later than five years	1,320,000	29,665
	1,679,665	207,653

The HFEA has relocated its office to 10 Spring Gardens and is a sub-tennant of National Institute for Clinice Excellence (NICE). Our lease runs to 31 December 2020.

14. Contingent liabilities

The HFEA regulates a sector that addresses some highly charged issues, of both a personal and clinical nature, which may generate close scrutiny. Some of the projects and work that the HFEA has undertaken, as well as certain decisions that the HFEA has made in 2015/16, may give rise to later challenge, including a risk of legal action.

At the date of finalising these accounts, there were two matters in litigation that may have financial consequences for the HFEA. For both, judgement is awaited and the liability will not be known until after then.

15. Related party transactions

a) The Department of Health is regarded as a related party. During the period the HFEA had various material transactions with the Department of Health and with some NHS trusts for which the Department of Health is regarded as the parent department.

During the period the HFEA received £1,120,000 (2014/15 £920,000) from the Department of Health in relation to operational grant-in-aid and £100,00 (2014/15 £Nil) for capital grant-in-aid. At the 31 March 2016 £Nil in grant-in-aid was due to the HFEA from the Department of Health and £Nil balances were due to the Deartment of Health from the HFEA.

The Department of Health invoiced the HFEA £31,337 in addition, we have accrued £2,660 in respect of internal audit work for the 2015/16 business year.

b) The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is regarded as a related party. During the period the HFEA had various material transactions with the CQC.

The CQC invoiced the HFEA £289,969 in relation to rent, rates and other facility costs. At 31 March 2015 we have accrued £82,818 representing rent and rates for the last quarter of 2015/16. £Nil was due to the HFEA from the CQC.

c) The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) is regarded as a related party. During the period the HFEA had transactions with the HTA to the value of £128,172.

16. Losses and special payments

No losses or special payments arose during the period (£Nil 2014/15).

17. IFRSs, amendments and interpretations in issue but not yet effective

The Treasury FReM does not require the following standards and interpretations to be applied in 2015/16.
IFRS 9 Financial Instruments
IFRS 16 Leases

18. Events after the reporting period

The Accounting Officer authorised these financial statements for issue on the date on which the accounts are certified by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

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