

Inquiry into access by donor conceived people to information about donors

As my son, aged 7 months, was conceived by donor sperm under the new legislation that will provide access about his donor, it is hard for me to comment on what should happen for those who were conceived before this time. I would like to say however that the current legislation and its spirit of transparency has helped me feel confident about using this technique to become pregnant and have a child. Although I desperately wanted a child, I wonder if I would have taken the path I did if I had a concern that secrecy and a lack of information about my child's biological origins could cause him some future harm had I been doing so under the previous legislation (however I also recognise that I am writing from the perspective and luxury of one who has been able to conceive a child under more progressive legislation and had I been hoping for a child 20 years ago in similar circumstances I may well have still used a sperm donation). I feel positive about the fact that my child will know from an early age that he was conceived by donor sperm, and that the donor has agreed to be identified in the future. If this was not the case I believe I could feel guilty and worried about whether or not this course of action would be fair on him or any future children I may have who would be likely to want to know about their biological origins. I certainly do not mean to suggest that those who have used donor gametes in the past were unconcerned about their children's wellbeing as I understand well the drive to have children and that those people were operating within a cultural context at the time. I am fortunate to be able to access such technology in an era when it is encouraged that donor conceived children are provided with information to make their own choices about accessing donors, where donors are provided with more support to help them understand the implications of what their donation means and therefore that is a context in which I have felt comfortable to create a child. I think it also really important that the parents of children are expected to be honest with their children about their donor origins in the current legislative context and that there are mechanisms in place to try and ensure this happens.

I would appreciate if my submission was kept anonymous as my child is still young and I would prefer he has the opportunity to make his own conception origins public if and when he so chooses.