

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee  
Wednesday 26 November 2025  
18th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

## PE2146: Allow the use of privately sourced donor eggs in NHS funded IVF treatment

### Introduction

**Petitioner** Jamie Connelly

**Petition summary** Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to:

- allow couples and individuals to purchase altruistically donated eggs from private clinics for use in NHS funded IVF treatment
- instruct NHS Scotland to create a clear clinical pathway to support those using private donor eggs

**Webpage** <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2146>

1. [The Committee last considered this petition at its meeting on 23 April 2025](#). At that meeting, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.
2. The petition summary is included in **Annexe A** and the Official Report of the Committee's last consideration of this petition is at **Annexe B**.
3. The Committee has received new written submissions from the Scottish Government and the Petitioner, which are set out in **Annexe C**.
4. [Written submissions received prior to the Committee's last consideration can be found on the petition's webpage](#).
5. [Further background information about this petition can be found in the SPICe briefing](#) for this petition.
6. [The Scottish Government gave its initial response to the petition on 27 March 2025](#).
7. Every petition collects signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 209 signatures have been received on this petition.

### Action

8. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take.

**Clerks to the Committee**  
**November 2025**

## **Annexe A: Summary of petition**

### **PE2146: Allow the use of privately sourced donor eggs in NHS funded IVF treatment**

#### **Petitioner**

Jamie Connelly

#### **Date Lodged**

24 February 2025

#### **Petition summary**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to:

- allow couples and individuals to purchase altruistically donated eggs from private clinics for use in NHS funded IVF treatment
- instruct NHS Scotland to create a clear clinical pathway to support those using private donor eggs

#### **Background information**

After commencing our surrogacy journey early this year, our surrogate, my fiancé and myself attended a telephone appointment with the infertility clinic at the Glasgow Royal. We were told that - although we were on a waiting list for eggs - the likelihood of getting eggs would be “minuscule” as the waiting time suggests over 30 years before we are next in line. The NHS in Scotland operates on an “all or nothing” policy meaning if patients source eggs from elsewhere they lose all funding for IVF via the NHS. This leaves a massive gap in equality for those in need of eggs. This affects people in same sex male and heterosexual relationships, as well as single women and men. Due to this void in resources, many people are faced with the prospect of crushing a dream to have a biological child.

## **Annexe B: Extract from Official Report of last consideration of PE1976 on 23 April 2025**

**The Convener:** Our final petition is PE2146, lodged by Jamie Connelly, which calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to allow couples and individuals to purchase altruistically donated eggs from private clinics for use in NHS-funded IVF treatment, and to instruct NHS Scotland to create a clear clinical pathway to support those using private donor eggs.

The SPICe briefing explains that large NHS-hosted clinics provide both private and NHS fertility treatment, for which there are separate waiting lists. Those in receipt of NHS treatment are fully funded by the NHS, while those who do not meet the criteria for NHS treatment can be offered private, fully self-funded treatment. That self-funded treatment is mostly provided by the NHS service at cost. However, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is slightly different in that it partners with the only private clinic in Scotland in providing paid-for care. That private clinic is not for profit and partners with an egg donation supplier in Spain. The briefing notes that many of the private clinics in the UK will source donor eggs from suppliers abroad. However, there are risks associated with sourcing eggs abroad and with their transportation.

The petitioner and his partner were told that the likelihood of getting donor eggs through the NHS would be “miniscule” as the waiting time is potentially more than 30 years. He reports that the NHS in Scotland operates on an all-or-nothing policy, which means that, if patients source eggs from elsewhere, they will lose all NHS funding for IVF. My goodness—with a wait of 30 years, you would have to register at birth for it to be of any use to you at all.

In its response to the petition, the Scottish Government states that it has always been clear that couples who are eligible for NHS fertility treatment should not pay for any aspect of their treatment, and this includes the purchase and use of donor gametes. It also states that couples who require an altruistic egg donor may wait between three to four years for treatment. This wait time can change depending on donor availability and we are aware that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is planning several campaigns this year to recruit egg and sperm donors, which will hopefully reduce the waiting times

Do members have any comments or suggestions for action?

**David Torrance:** I wonder whether the committee would consider writing to the Scottish Government to ask for a more detailed response to the petition, in particular to the suggestion that those who face significant waiting lists for donor eggs should be able to use an altruistically donated, privately purchased donor egg for NHS treatment. We could also ask what data is available to support information on NHS waiting times for couples who require an altruistic egg donor; whether the waiting time exceeds four years and, if so, what is the longest waiting time; and whether the Scottish Government believes that NHS boards are currently meeting the needs of couples who face a significant waiting list for donor eggs, which could prevent them from receiving treatment in time to have a biological child.

**The Convener:** Thank you very much, Mr Torrance. Do members agree with that approach?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

## **Annexe C: Written submissions**

### **Scottish Government written submission, 9 June 2025**

#### **PE2146/C: Allow the use of privately sourced donor eggs in NHS funded IVF treatment**

Thank you for your letter of 28 April 2025 in relation to public petition PE2146: Allow the use of privately sourced donor eggs in NHS funded IVF treatment calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to allow couples and individuals to purchase altruistically donated eggs from private clinics for use in NHS funded IVF treatment and instruct NHS Scotland to create a clear clinical pathway to support those using private donor eggs. I note from your letter that the Committee is asking for a more detailed response to the petition, in particular to the suggestion that those facing a significant waiting list for donor eggs should be able to use an altruistically donated, privately purchased donor egg for NHS treatment. This response will address the following points:

- what data is available to support the information about NHS waiting times for couples who require an altruistic egg donor.
- whether the waiting time can exceed four years and, if so, what the longest waiting time is
- whether the Scottish Government believes NHS Boards are currently meeting the needs of couples who face a significant waiting list for donor eggs that could prevent them from receiving treatment in time to have a biological child.

However, I would like to begin reiterating that the Scottish Government expects NHS Boards to meet the needs of couples who are eligible for NHS fertility treatment and require donor gametes (eggs and sperm) for that treatment and we have always been clear that couples who are eligible for NHS fertility treatment should not pay for any aspect of their treatment, including the purchase and use of donor gametes (eggs and sperm). None of the four NHS Fertility Centres based in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow purchase donor eggs from within the UK or overseas to treat their patients, this applies to both the NHS and self-funded patients.

I would also like to clarify that whilst each of the four NHS Fertility Centres provide self-funded treatment, the only fully private fertility centre in Scotland is GCRM Fertility in Glasgow.

I note from your letter that the Committee is keen to understand what data is available to support the information about NHS waiting times for couples who require an altruistic egg donor. Public Health Scotland (PHS) provides quarterly statistics on how long eligible patients wait from referral to a screening appointment for in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment by the NHS in Scotland, the most recent publication was issued on 27 May 2025 - IVF waiting times in Scotland - Quarter ending 31 March 2025 - IVF waiting times in Scotland - Publications - Public Health Scotland. The Local Delivery Plan Standard is for 90% of eligible patients to be screened at an IVF

Centre within 52 weeks of receipt of a referral from a secondary care/acute consultant. This has been met since the standard was first measured in March 2015. However, this data does not include the wait time for patients who require donor gametes for their NHS fertility treatment as this patient cohort is excluded from the need to meet the Local Delivery Plan Target - National Infertility Group Report 2013, page 27, Section 7.2, paragraph 144. All assisted reproduction treatment is excluded from national patient waiting targets, The Patient Rights (Treatment Time Guarantee) (Scotland) Regulations 2012, Section 7.

NHS Boards collect their own data in regards to the waiting times for couples requiring an altruistic egg donor. However, I can advise that the Fertility Centre with the longest wait time is currently Glasgow Fertility Centre who advised that couples who require an altruistic egg donor may wait between three to four years for treatment. All of the waits at the other three Fertility Centres are below this time.

As mentioned above, the Scottish Government expects NHS Boards to meet the needs of couples who are eligible for NHS fertility treatment and require donor gametes (eggs and sperm) for that treatment and all four Centres have advised that they intend to run local campaigns in 2025 to reduce the waiting times for patients using the Scottish Government/NHS Scotland resources that were developed for the national donor gamete recruitment campaigns in 2021, 2022 and 2023. The Scottish Government therefore believes that as far as possible, NHS Fertility Centres are meeting the needs of couples who require donor gametes, including donor eggs, for their NHS fertility treatment.

## **Children and Families Directorate**

### **Petitioner written submission, 20 June 2025**

#### **PE2146/D: Allow the use of privately sourced donor eggs in NHS funded IVF treatment**

I have read the Scottish Government's recent written submission and my response would be to question the validity in the claims made by this submission. Mainly, that the four NHS fertility centres are meeting their targets.

If this was the case, then why are patients being advised that their potential wait time for eggs is likely to exceed thirty years?

This, surely, cannot be classed as "meeting targets". I refute the claims made in the submission and I would urge the Committee to speak to the Glasgow Royal's Assisted Conception Service or the Egg Retrieval Clinic who advised us of the thirty plus year wait time.

There are people and couples who are removing themselves from the assisted conception process due to the information they are being given regarding potential wait times for eggs.