



Released: Wednesday 17th January 2024

fertilitynetworkuk **Fertility Network UK responds to**
2024 Women's Health Strategy

Dr Catherine Hill, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, said: "Following the announcement by the Department of Health and Social Care on the Women's Health Strategy for 2024, we are glad to see a commitment to early diagnosis of gynaecological conditions, such as Endometriosis and PCOS, which continue to be some of the primary contributors to infertility in women.

"We are disappointed, however, to see that fertility has not been considered a focus area, especially given that 3.5 million people in the UK experience some kind of fertility challenge. Despite promises made by the DHSC in July 2022 about removing non-clinical barriers in access to NHS-funded fertility treatment, which would involve changes to treatment pathways for female same-sex couples, we see no change over 18 months on.

"The impact of infertility on women's physical, emotional and mental well-being must not be under-stated and we as a charity are concerned, not only about the lack of fertility education across the UK, but also the barriers to NHS-funded treatment and the provision of support for those struggling with fertility issues. It is time we addressed the burden on women, and men, who feel their fertility struggles are a battle they must face alone. We urge the Government to take action and ensure that pathways to parenthood for those with infertility are an equal priority."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Contact: Claudia Congrave, Comms & content manager on 07494-991288
media@fertilitynetworkuk.org

1. Fertility Network UK provides practical and emotional support, information and advice for anyone experiencing fertility issues. The charity works to raise the profile and understanding of fertility issues and to push for timely and equitable provision of fertility treatment throughout the UK.

www.fertilitynetworkuk.org

2. Fertility Network UK provides a free and impartial Support Line open from 10am to 4pm.

Mon, Wed and Fri: 0121 323 5025, support@fertilitynetworkuk.org

Tues and Thurs: 07816 086694, janet@fertilitynetworkuk.org

3. Fertility Network UK supports people. We rely on voluntary donations to continue our vital work. You can donate now via text; text FNUK plus the donation amount to 70085. Or you can donate by visiting www.justgiving.com/fertilitynetwork

