

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill amends the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act. It can therefore be difficult to trace what proposed Amendments to the Bill actually mean.

The following provides commentary on amendments tabled in the House of Commons from a **research perspective only**.

Helpful amendments are colored green, **harmful amendments** red.

The links given refer to the relevant Amendment paper published on the Parliament website.

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Public Bill Committee given on 12 May 2008

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/pbc0700512a.1-5.html>

1) +2) This is a different way of framing the mitochondrial exception. It would get rid of the "regulations" hurdle. It only functions in conjunction, i.e. (2) must not pass if (1) fails.

3) Stresses the illegality of reproductive cloning

4) This strikes the HFEA's power to charge fees for advice. A very helpful amendment.

5) The bill would increase the maximum storage period for gametes from 5 to 10 years. This amendment changes that to 7 years.

6) Fertility services: record keeping

7) Allows the use of human cells for research without the explicit consent of the donor if the material was collected before the new Act comes into force and several very stringent safeguards are met. A very helpful amendment that prevents some existing tissue collections to be rendered unusable for research.

NC1) Fertility services: record keeping

8) Allows research use of gametes from children incapable of giving consent if it is in their best interest (to preserve their fertility) as certified by a doctor.

9) Allows research use of gametes from people incapable of giving consent if their guardian consents, the donor has not raised any objections and the research is deemed scientifically necessary on those cells.

10) Allows research use of gametes from children incapable of giving consent if their guardian consents, the child does not raise any objections and the research is deemed scientifically necessary on those cells.

Committee of the Whole House - given on 12 May 2008

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/pb0701205a.2103-2109.html>

NC1-5) Abortion

1) Bans research on admixed embryos.

2) Bans research on admixed embryos.

3) Wants to ban the hamster test (?) (bad drafting)

4) Bans "savior siblings"

5) Bans "savior siblings"

6) Provides that regulations cannot change the stance on "savior siblings"

7-9) Restructures the prohibitions. Some confused drafting going on here.

10) + 11) The intention here is to ban 'true hybrids' but to allow cybrids etc.

12 -13) Need for a father

14) This amendment aims to introduce license for therapy, which is good, but it does not address Sect.11 and will therefore be ineffective.

15) Restricts PGD to "life –threatening"

16) +17) Restricts 'savior siblings' to "life –threatening"

18) Prohibits non-regenerative organ transfer from 'savior siblings'

19) + 20) Limits the scope of regulations to amend PGD provisions

21) – 23) Wholesome families

24) -30) Exchanges "abnormal" genes etc. for "harmful". Pretty sensible

31-32) An amendment which brings in the urgently needed license for therapy provisions, but works much better than (14) above.

NC6 + NC7) Abortion

Public Bill Committee given on 13 May 2008

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/pbc0700513a.7.html>

11) +12) Gametes from deceased who wanted children.

13) Judges can act if HFEA does not

Committee of the Whole House - given on 13 May 2008

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/wh0701305a.2113-2114.html>

NC8) Abortion

33) Housekeeping: regulations trump licenses

34) - 39) **Restricts admixed embryos to the law rather than allowing remit for regulations.**

Public Bill Committee given on 14 May 2008

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/pbc0700514a.9.html>

NC2) Updates storage regulations but in a manner that discriminates against older people.

Committee of the Whole House - given on 13 May 2008

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/cwh0700514a.2119-2125.html>

This collates previous amendments.

It also specifies **further proceedings**:

The following will be voted on by the whole House (on **19- 20. May 2008**)

Clause 4, (Prohibitions in connection with genetic material not of human origin)

- 11 (Activities that may be licensed)
- 14 (Conditions of licences for treatment)
- 23 (Code of practice)
- Schedule 2; (Activities that may be licensed)

All of these sections are important for research.

The remainder of the Bill will be committed to a Public Bill Committee. Proceedings in the Public Bill Committee shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion on **Tuesday 17th June 2008**.

I am not sure if this provision means that after the whole House stage no further Amendments may be brought to the relevant sections, and would be grateful to receive clarification on that point.