

media information

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For Immediate Release

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ORIGIN WELCOMES NEW CASH TO CUT WAITING LISTS

The additional £1.5 million of new cash, announced today, is welcome, but more than money is required to address the North's infertility problems, according to leading private fertility provider, Origin Fertility Care (www.originfertilitycare.com).

Origin's scientific director, Jenny Hall, says the Minister's announcement is the first new annual funding increase since the service was introduced in 2001:

"Infertility is one of Northern Ireland's best-kept medical secrets.

"Every year, around 5,500 Northern Ireland couples attend their GP with a fertility problem and there are over 2,500 new referrals for fertility treatment annually.

"In the UK a woman is more likely to see her GP for an infertility- related complaint, than for any other reason.

"But, since the introduction of publicly-funded fertility treatment in 2001, Northern Ireland waiting lists have run at two years or more and there has been no increase in annual funding for fertility since then"

Today's announcement on increased access to NHS-funded infertility services is unlikely to substantially shorten local waiting lists for publicly funded infertility.

[ENDS]

Notes for Editors:

1. Origin Fertility Care is licensed by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) for the provision of a full range of fertility treatment including In-vitro fertilisation, ICSI, gamete donation and for gamete and embryo storage.

[ENDS]