Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 20 November 2017, in which you have asked for information relating to the Human Developmental Biology Resource (HDBR) which is funded by the MRC and the Wellcome Trust.

In your request you asked the following questions:

**Question 1:** To ask the MRC to detail the collaboration between the Human Developmental Biology Resource (HDBR) and the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) for the collection of fetal and embryonic stem cells, and specifically, to provide a description of operational costs incurred by BPAS, and to identify which, if any, the MRC or HDBR contributes to the coverage of.

**Question 2:** To ask the MRC to identify any further providers of fetal and embryonic stem cells to the HDBR, and to provide the same information as above for each.

The MRC does not hold information on collaborations between the HDBR and the BPAS, nor do we hold information on any operational costs incurred by BPAS for providing fetal tissue to the HDBR.

The HDBR operates over two sites the Institute of Genetic Medicine, Newcastle University and the Institute of Child Health, University College London. The award is administered by the Wellcome Trust with core funding supporting costs for sample collection, transport, processing and storage. Information on MRC’s funding for the HDBR can be found on the RCUK Gateway to Research at the following link: [http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=MC_PC_15004](http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=MC_PC_15004).

The award holders, Newcastle University and University College London are responsible for the management of HDBR tissue bank services and as such would be better placed to advise on your specific questions relating to any collaborations with the BPAS.

They would also be able to advise on whether there are any further providers. Contact details for both universities are available on the HDBR website: [http://www.hdbr.org/](http://www.hdbr.org/).

I hope that you find this response to be helpful, if you are not satisfied that this response has been handled appropriately; you may appeal using the MRC’s complaints procedure. Details are on the MRC website at: [www.mrc.ac.uk/index/about/about-contact/about-complaints_procedure.htm](http://www.mrc.ac.uk/index/about/about-contact/about-complaints_procedure.htm). You may contact the MRC Complaints Officer at:

The Complaints Officer  
Medical Research Council  
14th Floor, One Kemble Street  
London, WC2B 4AN.  
email: customer.service@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk
If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF.
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely,