

**Reference:** FOI.ICB-2223/276

**Subject:** Access to fertility treatment for same sex couples

*I can confirm that the ICB **does hold the information requested**; please see responses below:*

| QUESTION  | RESPONSE   |
|---|--|
| <p>I am hoping to clarify what fertility treatment options are available for me and my partner.</p> <p>We noted the Women's Health Strategy published in August 2022 and the welcomed changes to access to enable same sex couples' equal access to fertility treatment from April 2023.</p> <p>Please can you clarify if these changes have been implemented in our area and how we go about accessing them?</p> | <p>The purpose of Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Infertility Assessment and Treatment Policy is to support people who need to be assessed because they are having problems achieving conception using whatever method is appropriate for them. Depending on the result of that assessment, the policy's purpose is to then support people to have interventions, according to certain clinical criteria, that could help achieve conception.</p> <p>BNSSG's policy for Infertility Assessment and Treatment has been updated and was approved by the ICB Board on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. The policy is due to go live from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 and will be published on the ICB website. The revised policy addresses elements of the inequity of access to infertility services, including some of those faced by same sex female couples.</p> <p>BNSSG ICB are aware of the government's Women's Health Strategy for England updated on 30 August 2022 and the 10-year ambitions and actions the government says it will take for fertility care. As noted in the Ministerial Forward, it is a ten-year strategy</p> |



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|  | setting out the aspirations for improving equality of opportunity in accessing health services. BNSSG ICB is awaiting updated guidance on the implementation of the Women's Health Strategy from The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence and NHS England. Guidance is due for publication in 2024. |
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***The information provided in this response is accurate as of 11 April 2023 and has been approved for release by Dr Joanne Medhurst, Chief Medical Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.***