

Results of 1996 consultation

**Summary of Public Response to the
Consultation Paper on the Draft Reproductive Technology Bill**

The Provisional Council on Reproductive Technology conducted a two-month public consultation from July to September 1996 on the following three major issues arising from the draft Reproductive Technology Bill -

- (a) sex selection achieved by means of reproductive technology (RT) procedures;
- (b) use of fetal ovarian or testicular tissue in infertility treatment or in research; and
- (c) the licensing system.

2. The consultation exercise attracted 41 written responses, including those from medical professionals and professional bodies, social service groups, religious bodies and academic institutions and organisations involved in the practice of reproductive technology. Only four responses were from members of the public. The Wong Tai Sin District Board also discussed the consultation paper. An overall analysis of these responses is at Annex A. A total of 15 public views were also collected from a call-in radio programme "Heart of the Matter" and articles/editorials published in newspaper. An analysis of these is at Annex B.

Analysis of Public Views

(Total No. of Submissions: 41)

ISSUES	Medical/Existing RT Service Provider			Social			Religions			Academic			Members of the Public			Others #			Overall																							
	for	against	no view	for	against	no view	for	against	no view	for	against	no view	for	against	no view	for	against	no view	for	against	no view																					
a) Sex selection achieved by means of RT procedures																																										
i) Medical reasons	20	0	2	3	2	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	2*	2	1	3	0	1	33	4	4	90.91%	0%	9.09%	60.00%	40.00%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	40.00%	40.00%	20.00%	75.00%	0%	25.00%	80.48%	9.76%	9.76%
ii) Non-medical reasons	3	18	1	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	2*	3	0	0	3	1	5	3	2	13.64%	81.82%	4.55%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	60.00%	0%	0%	75.00%	25.00%	12.19%	82.93%	4.88%			
b) Use of fetal ovarian or testicular tissue in																																										
i) Infertility treatment	4	15	3	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	3	2	0	3	1	4	27	10	18.18%	68.18%	13.64%	0%	60.00%	40.00%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%	0%	75.00%	25.00%	9.76%	65.85%	24.39%
ii) Research	17	0	5	3	0	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	2	1	2	3	0	1	27	2	12	77.27%	0%	22.73%	60.00%	0%	40.00%	0%	0%	100%	66.67%	33.33%	0%	40.00%	20.00%	40.00%	75.00%	0%	25.00%	65.85%	4.88%	29.27%
c) Licensing system for the provision of RT Services	18	1	3	4	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	4	0	1	3	0	1	33	1	7	81.82%	4.55%	13.64%	50.00%	0%	20.00%	50.00%	0%	50.00%	100%	0%	0%	80.00%	0%	20.00%	75.00%	0%	25.00%	80.49%	2.44%	17.07%
No. of Submissions	22			5			2			3			5			4			41																							

Note:

Others include political party, legal professionals and oversens RT organization

* It includes one submission signed by 183 individuals

Analysis of Public Views Collected from Media

(Total Numbers: 15)

ISSUES	Media									Overall		
	Radio ¹			Newspaper ²			Editorial					
	for	against	no view	for	against	no view	for	against	no view	for	against	no view
a) Sex selection achieved by means of RT procedures												
i) Medical reasons	6	1	0	3	2	1	2	0	0	11	3	1
	85.71%	14.29%	0%	50.00%	33.33%	16.67%	100%	0%	0%	73.33%	20.00%	6.67%
ii) Non-medical reasons	4	3	0	1	4	1	1	1	0	6	8	1
	57.14%	42.86%	0%	16.67%	66.66%	16.67%	50%	50%	0%	40%	53.33%	6.67%
b) Use of fetal ovarian or testicular tissue in:												
i) Infertility treatment	0	0	7	0	1	5	0	0	2	0	1	14
	0%	0%	100%	0%	16.67%	83.33%	0%	0%	100%	0%	6.67%	93.33%
ii) Research	0	0	7	0	1	5	0	0	2	0	1	14
	0%	0%	100%	0%	16.67%	83.33%	0%	0%	100%	0%	6.67%	93.33%
c) Licensing system for the provision of RT Services	1	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	2	1	0	14
	14.29%	0%	85.71%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	6.67%	0%	93.33%

Note 1: 7 views expressed through call-in radio programme (namely “Heart of the Matter” on Commercial Radio on 20 July 1996).

Note 2: 8 views collected from articles/ readers/ editorials in newspapers.