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Assurances of past donor anonymity are meaningless

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## Assurances of past donor anonymity are meaningless: correction

*28 November 2005*

*By Professor Eric Blyth*

Professor of Social Work, University of Huddersfield

Appeared in BioNews [336](#)

In BioNews 334, we published a commentary by Professor Eric Blyth, in which he stated that 'the remit of UK DonorLink is restricted to donor procedures occurring before the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act came into force in August 1991, and it is not funded to provide either counselling or intermediary services. Consequently, there is no obvious provision in this country for information, advice, support or counselling for anyone involved in - or affected by - a donor procedure before 1991'. In fact, UK DonorLink is funded to provide counselling, and Professor Blyth is very sorry for this error and any confusion it might have caused.

At Professor Blyth's request, the above paragraph has now been replaced by the following: 'However, the remit of UK DonorLink is restricted to donor procedures occurring before the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act came into force in August 1991, and the HFEA is not funded to provide either counselling or intermediary services for donor procedures taking place since implementation of the Act. Consequently, provision in this country for information, advice, support or counselling for anyone involved in - or affected by - a donor procedure is far from systematic'.

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*14 November 2005 - by Professor Eric Blyth*

The New Scientist recently recounted the story of an American teenager conceived through ostensibly anonymous donor insemination who had been able to identify his donor through DNA testing and an internet genetic database service (also see BioNews issue 333, at <http://www.bionews.org.uk/new.lasso?storyid=2808>). In fact, we have known...[\[Read More\]](#)

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