



Check the clinics I have in mind

ARGC, King's Fertility and The Lister Fertility Clinic, checked for one solo woman aged 44

Compiled by Sarah, founder of Solo Fertility 40s

About this sample. The woman below is made up. The clinics are real, and every fact was read on 14 October 2026 from the source named beside it. This is research to help a woman choose and question clinics; it is not medical advice.

Her profile

- 44, lives in London, solo
- **Known issues:** AMH 3.5 pmol/L (08/2026); endometriosis (laparoscopy, 2019)
- Budget about £25,000, for two or three cycles
- IVF, own eggs first, open to donor eggs
- No previous treatment
- UK only; wants to start within 3 months

Reading the success rates

All three clinics are in the UK, so their figures come from the HFEA, the UK regulator, and can be compared fairly. Each figure is for women aged 43–44 using their own eggs, for births over three years (2022–2024), measured as **live births per embryo transfer**. With fewer than about 20 transfers, a figure is too small to compare clinics fairly. The HFEA's 2024 figures for everyone aged 38 and over cover a much wider age band, so they're shown for context only.

At a glance

	ARGC	King's Fertility	The Lister
Owner	Independent, founder-owned	Independent, owned by a charity (The Fetal Medicine Foundation)	Part of a large group (HCA Healthcare UK)
Live births per transfer, 43–44, own eggs, fresh (national average 7%)	4 of 24 (17%), small sample	9 of 106 (8%)	9 of 175 (5%)
Same, frozen embryos (national average 10%)	Too few to publish	3 of 40 (8%)	2 of 42 (5%)
Embryos transferred at 43–44 (average)	2.67 (4% single embryo)	1.1 (90% single embryo)	1.42 (59% single embryo)
Multiple birth rate, 2024, age 38+ (HFEA target 10% or lower)	19%	1%	1%
Estimated cost of one cycle for her	£5,600–£11,700+, several items unpriced	£5,000–£9,550	£7,250–£10,150
How it treats solo women	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed
Red flags	3 moderate, 1 minor	2 minor	1 minor
Her gut feel (1–5)			

All three clinics' HFEA figures for 43–44 are rated "consistent with national average", because the numbers are small. ARGC's higher rate per transfer partly reflects transferring two or three embryos at a time, which also explains its multiple birth rate.

1. ARGC (Assisted Reproduction and Gynaecology Centre)

A founder-led clinic on Upper Wimpole Street, licensed since 1995, known for very frequent monitoring and for offering immune treatments. It charges as treatment progresses rather than in packages.

Clinical care for women over 40 Strong, with a caveat

- HFEA, own eggs, fresh, age 43–44 (births 2022–2024): **4 of 24 transfers (17%)**, national average 7%. Small sample. Frozen: too few to publish.
- **Average 2.67 embryos per transfer at 43–44, with only 4% single-embryo transfers.** Multiple birth rate in 2024 for women 38 and over: **19%**, against an HFEA target of 10% or lower.
- 2024, age 38 and over: 14% per embryo transferred; 44% births per egg collection (wide age band, context only).
- **Low AMH:** no published protocol found. **Endometriosis:** named on the immunology page (see below); no named endometriosis specialist found.

How the clinic makes its money Mixed

- **Prices** (argc.co.uk/en/all-prices, read 14 October 2026): consultation £200; IVF £3,750 plus HFEA fee £115; ICSI £1,300 if recommended; medication £600–£2,500+; treatment blood tests £800–£2,200+; embryo freezing with one year's storage £700; frozen embryo transfer £1,900; storage £300 a year.
- **Estimated cost of one cycle: £5,600–£11,700+.** Not priced: the pre-treatment monitoring cycle and donor sperm. If recommended, also extra: hysteroscopy £1,450, immunology screen £1,150, IVIG £2,200–£2,500 per dose. Against £25,000 for two or three cycles, two are realistic; three are unlikely if immune treatment is added.
- **Add-ons charged separately**, with the current HFEA rating (read 14 October 2026) and the latest Cochrane review:
 - Time-lapse £300: HFEA **black** (no effect on chances of a baby). Cochrane 2019: not enough good-quality evidence of a difference. Review more than three years old.
 - PICSI £250: HFEA **black**, including for older women having ICSI for male-factor problems.
 - Blastocyst culture £500; oocyte activation £450 (the HFEA says only for selected patients); Zymot £150 (not rated by the HFEA).
 - **Immune treatments:** IVIG and steroids rated HFEA **red** (potential safety concerns); intralipids **grey** (not enough evidence). Cochrane: not verified.
- **Ownership: independent.** A.R.G.C. Limited is owned by ARGC Topco Limited, in which Dr Mohamed Taranissi holds 50–75% (Companies House, checked 13 October 2026). Shown neutrally.

How they treat solo women Mixed

- The frozen embryo page says it treats "Couples or single women"; the donation page says donor sperm suits "individuals or couples".
- The IVF page's FAQ is written for a couple: "What if my partner cannot be present or produce a sperm sample on the day of egg collection?"
- No reviews from solo women found. Monitoring can be daily, a real practical consideration for a woman attending alone around work.

Practical detail Strong

- HFEA inspection rating 5/5. Latest renewal inspection report: **23 February 2026**; licensed to 31 August 2030. (The HFEA profile still shows "Last inspection: 22 January 2018", which appears to be a display error.) Open every day of the year.

Reviews Mixed

- HFEA patient rating 4/5 from 13 ratings. Trustpilot about 4/5 from 46 reviews (search snapshot), sharply split: praise for success after failures elsewhere; complaints about access, scheduling and cost. The clinic replies to reviews.
- A February 2026 Mumsnet thread is sharply divided. One poster's claims about the clinic's data are unverified allegations and aren't relied on here.

Social media Not enough information

Linked from its website: Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube (@argcuk). Activity not checked.

Red flags

- **Moderate:** The immunology page lists endometriosis among conditions where immune "imbalances can disrupt" implantation, and offers IVIG and steroids, which the HFEA rates red. Endometriosis is in her known issues. The page doesn't say every woman with endometriosis is offered treatment, so this is a question to ask, not a conclusion.
- **Moderate:** 19% multiple birth rate (2024, age 38+) against a 10% target, and an average of 2.67 embryos per transfer at 43–44. Twins carry higher risks, especially at 44.
- **Moderate:** Open-ended cost, with several items unpriced and reviewers mentioning unclear costs.
- **Minor:** IVF FAQ written for a partner.
- *Context, not a red flag:* the 2007 HFEA raid and BBC allegations ended in the clinic's favour in 2008.

2. King's Fertility

A clinic at Denmark Hill, licensed since 1992, run as a partnership between King's College Hospital and The Fetal Medicine Foundation, a charity that receives its profits. It publishes a detailed price list and doesn't use PGT-A routinely.

Clinical care for women over 40 Mixed

- HFEA, own eggs, age 43–44: fresh **9 of 106 (8%)**, national average 7%; frozen **3 of 40 (8%)**, national average 10%. Both consistent with the national average. A large sample, so real experience with women her age.
- 90% single-embryo transfers at 43–44; multiple birth rate 1% (2024, age 38+). 2024, age 38 and over: 23% per embryo transferred; 22% per egg collection.
- **Low AMH**: offers a duo-stimulation package (two egg collections in one cycle, £9,525), which may suit low AMH. Evidence not checked in this sample; worth asking. **Endometriosis**: no named specialist found.
- Its own success page removes donor-egg and PGT-A cycles from its figures, saying they would "give a misleading impression of higher success rates".

How the clinic makes its money Strong

- **Prices** (full price guide valid from 1 April 2026): consultation package for single women £390; IVF cycle **£4,090** including monitoring, blood tests, sedation, HFEA fee and "advanced embryology" (time-lapse, EmbryoGlue and blastocyst culture where appropriate); ICSI £1,250; embryo freezing £350; storage £350 a year; frozen embryo transfer £1,695; medication £532–£2,485; importing donor sperm £625; one counselling session included.
- **Estimated cost of one cycle: £5,000–£9,550**. Not priced: buying donor sperm, screening blood tests, the pharmacy delivery charge. Two to three cycles fit within £25,000.
- **Add-ons built into the price** (no extra charge): time-lapse, HFEA **black**; EmbryoGlue, HFEA **amber**. Here the HFEA and Cochrane disagree: Cochrane (2020) found moderate-quality evidence that it improves live birth rates. Review more than three years old.
- **Offered at extra cost**: PGT-A (HFEA **red** for most patients, **grey** for older women; Cochrane 2020: not enough good-quality evidence); endometrial receptivity testing £1,300 (HFEA **red**); microbiome tests (HFEA **grey**); endometrial scratching (HFEA **amber**; Cochrane May 2026: uncertain).
- **Ownership: independent, charity-owned**. King's Fertility Limited is 75%+ owned by The Fetal Medicine Foundation (Companies House, 14 October 2026).

How they treat solo women Mixed

- Treatment pages: "Whether you are a single woman, a heterosexual couple or a same-sex couple..."
- But the £390 consultation package for "Single Women or Same-Sex Couples" describes a "Consultation with a fertility specialist (both partners)" and costs for "the female partner".
- Recruits UK sperm donors (HFEA profile); price and waiting time not found. No reviews from solo women found.

Practical detail Strong

HFEA inspection rating 5/5. Latest renewal inspection report: **12 May 2026**; licensed to 30 September 2030. Satellite sites in Guildford, Romford, Ipswich and Mayfair. On-site counsellor.

Reviews Not enough information

HFEA patient rating 4.5/5 from 21 ratings. Doctify: no reviews. Trustpilot couldn't be opened. One Mumsnet poster (February 2026) called it great for simpler cases but warned of "rigidity", a single post.

Social media Not enough information

Linked from its website: Instagram, Facebook, X and LinkedIn (@kingsfertility). Activity not checked.

Red flags

- **Minor:** Single-women consultation package written for partners.
- **Minor:** Very few independent reviews.

3. The Lister Fertility Clinic

One of London's longest-running clinics, licensed since 1992, at The Lister Hospital in Chelsea, now part of HCA Healthcare UK. Its own website now redirects to HCA UK.

Clinical care for women over 40 Mixed

- HFEA, own eggs, age 43–44: fresh **9 of 175 (5%)**, national average 7%; frozen **2 of 42 (5%)**, national average 10%. Both rated consistent with the national average. The largest sample of the three, so lots of experience with women her age, but results numerically below average.
- 59% single-embryo transfers; multiple birth rate 1% (2024, age 38+). 2024, age 38 and over: 15% per embryo transferred; 17% per egg collection.
- **Low AMH / endometriosis:** no specific protocol or named specialist found.

How the clinic makes its money Mixed

- **Prices** (price list valid from 1 February 2026): initial consultation £260; pre-IVF blood tests £479–£552; IVF cycle **£4,510** including time-lapse "used routinely in all cycles" and blastocyst culture, AI assessment tools or EmbryoGlue where applicable; medication average £1,400; monitoring bloods average £625; ICSI £1,555 if advised; embryo freezing with first year's storage £980; storage £400 a year; frozen embryo transfer £2,665; importing donor sperm £315; donor sperm an "external cost".
- **Estimated cost of one cycle: £7,250–£10,150**, before buying donor sperm, and more if medication runs above average. Two cycles fit within £25,000; three are tight.
- **Packages through Access Fertility:** at 40–44, only multi-cycle plans, **with no refund:** two cycles £11,100 (IVF) or £13,300 (ICSI); three cycles £15,400 or £18,500. The refund plans are for younger women.
- **Add-ons:** time-lapse built in (HFEA **black**); endometrial receptivity testing £1,458 (HFEA **red**); immune screen £1,348 (immune treatments rated **red** or **grey**).
- **Ownership: part of a large group.** Run by HCA International Limited, owned through HCA International Holdings and HCA UK Holdings (Companies House, 14 October 2026). Ultimate parent not confirmed. Shown neutrally.

How they treat solo women Mixed

- Donor sperm page: you might use donor sperm "if you're a single woman". Its partnerships page names single women and offers counselling and six months' membership of Paths to Parenthood, a donor-conception community, at no charge.
- The main IVF page defaults to "sperm from a male partner". No reviews from solo women found.

Practical detail Strong

HFEA inspection rating 5/5. Latest renewal inspection report: **15 September 2026**. Current licence runs to 28 February 2027. Several London sites, labs in-house. Gold partner of Fertility Network UK since 2016.

Reviews Mixed

HFEA patient rating 5/5 from 19 ratings. Doctify 4.79 from 198 reviews; Trustpilot 2.5 from 9 reviews (both search snapshots, not read directly).

Social media Not enough information

No Lister-specific accounts found; HCA UK's corporate accounts only.

Red flags

- **Minor:** Main IVF page written for a male partner.

Your consultation questions

Ask every clinic

1. "What is your live birth rate per egg collection for women aged 44, using their own eggs, counting all transfers from that egg collection, over the last three years? How many women is that based on? Could you send it to me in writing?"

Good answer: a number, a sample size and the years covered. Whatever they say is clinic-reported, not independently verified, but the three answers can be compared.

Evasive: a different measure, or an all-ages figure.

2. Explain your exact level of experience with women over 40.

Good answer: how many women aged 43–44 using their own eggs they treated last year, and the outcomes.

Evasive: the clinic-wide success rate.

3. If I only want to use my own eggs, what would the treatment plan be? Or if I want to use donor eggs?

Good answer: how many cycles they'd try with AMH 3.5 at 44, and when they'd raise donor eggs.

Evasive: "let's see how you respond."

4. If the first IVF cycle fails, what would you recommend or change?

Good answer: a specific plan.

Evasive: "let's just be optimistic" in place of a plan.

5. I have endometriosis. How does that change your plan, and how many women my age with endometriosis have you treated?

Good answer: specifics, including whether anything is done before IVF.

Evasive: "we see lots of endometriosis."

6. Will you offer me a personalised protocol? And how will I know it's personalised?

Good answer: what they'd do differently because of her AMH, age and endometriosis.

Evasive: a standard protocol described as personalised.

7. What allowances do you make for solo women doing this alone?

Good answer: practical answers on egg collection day, getting home, and support.

Evasive: answers addressed to a couple.

8. What will one cycle cost me in total, including medication, freezing, storage and donor sperm?

Good answer: an itemised estimate in writing.

Evasive: a headline price with "extras depend".

ARGC: also ask

How many embryos would you transfer for me at 44, and what's my risk of twins?

Good answer: a number and their own multiple birth rate.

Evasive: "we'll decide on the day."

Would you recommend immune testing or treatment for me because of endometriosis? Which, why, and what does it cost?

Good answer: an honest answer that the HFEA rates IVIG and steroids red, and a real choice to decline.

Evasive: presenting it as essential.

What will the pre-treatment monitoring cycle cost me?

(send by email beforehand)

King's Fertility: also ask

Would you recommend duo stimulation for me with AMH 3.5 pmol/L, and what are your results with it for women my age?

What does the £390 consultation include for me on my own, and can I use your own UK sperm donors? Cost and waiting time?

(send by email beforehand)

The Lister: also ask

Your figures for women 43–44 using their own eggs are 9 births from 175 transfers. What would you do for me that gives me a better chance than that?

Good answer: specifics and their per-egg-collection figure.

Evasive: "every patient is different."

At my age the package plans have no refund. What exactly is included, and what happens if I move to donor eggs part way through?

Ask for in writing afterwards

The treatment plan, a full itemised cost estimate, and the answer to question 1.

Comparison

- **Success data for her age:** ARGC's rate per transfer is highest but based on 24 transfers, with two or three embryos at a time. King's and the Lister have much larger samples; King's is a little above the national average numerically, the Lister a little below. None is statistically different from average.
- **Known issues:** none of the three shows named expertise in low AMH or endometriosis. King's duo-stimulation option is the only offer aimed at low egg numbers. ARGC links endometriosis to red-rated immune treatment.
- **Cost against £25,000:** King's fits two to three cycles; the Lister fits two; ARGC fits two, fewer if immune treatment is added.
- **Deal-breakers to rule out at consultation:** at ARGC, whether immune treatment would be recommended and how many embryos they'd transfer.
- **Ranking on the evidence:** 1. King's Fertility (transparent costs, single-embryo approach, large sample of women her age). 2 and 3 are too close to call between ARGC (stronger results, but twins risk and red-rated treatment) and The Lister (large experience, numerically lower results). The answers to question 1 and the ARGC questions could change the order.
- This ranking doesn't tell her which to choose. Where her gut feel disagrees with it, that's worth thinking about.

What couldn't be checked in this sample

- The Cochrane review for immune treatments (not found); evidence for duo stimulation.
- Trustpilot and Google reviews read directly; social media activity.
- Donor sperm prices at each clinic; ARGC's pre-treatment cycle cost; the Lister's ultimate owner and licence renewal.



About Sarah

At 43, with very low AMH, I went through two IVF cycles abroad without the research this report gives you. I did very little research because I got my low AMH test and panicked. Then my first clinic rushed me into treatment. A report like this would have slowed me down enough to think more clearly about where I invested five figures. In the end, both IVF clinics advised me to use donor eggs. I optimised my health for 8 months and then conceived with a known donor. I was almost 44.

I built this so you can check a clinic before you spend. I'm independent: no clinic pays me, and no clinic has any say in what a report says.