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## **IRISH FERTILITY COUNSELLORS ASSOCIATION CELEBRATE FIVE YEARS**

The Irish Fertility Counsellors Association (IFCA) announced today, on the occasion of their fifth anniversary, that their members had completed 25,000 counselling sessions since the formation of the Association. A new website and Twitter account for the Association were formally launched for the occasion.

Founded in 2008 on an all-Ireland basis, IFCA represents 16 professional counsellors, with a range of qualifications in counselling, psychology and psychotherapy, each specialising in the area of human fertility.

A young couple, Marcus and Natalie Kirwan, who had benefitted from counselling by an IFCA member in arriving at their decision to opt for insemination using donor sperm, attended the event with their children, Ellie (4 and a half) and Ollie (5 weeks) to endorse the role of professional counselling in arriving at that decision.

Mary McNeaney, the chair of IFCA, said: "Many people, as individuals or couples, present with fertility issues every year. Fertility problems have a wide range of possible origins and a wide range of possible resolutions. IFCA members provide specialist counselling support for the decision-making process around the types of interventions that may be appropriate and continued support during and after treatment. We believe that everyone exploring or considering fertility treatment should have access to professional counselling from people who specialise in the area. That is why IFCA was founded."

The new website address is <http://www.fertilitycounsellors.ie> and the Twitter account is @IrishFertilityC.

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