

My name is Clare Armitage, I am 22 years old, was born in 1987 as a result of artificial insemination. Whilst there were moments growing up when it was difficult to understand and deal with these circumstances, I have been lucky enough to have the support and love of my family, who have always been honest with me.

As a young woman, trying to negotiate her place in the world, it is at this time of my life that I look forward to what the future holds. Simultaneously, the importance of knowledge and understanding of my past arises. As my close friends depart for countries all over the world where their ancestors once originated, I do not. As people feel connected to their cultural or national roots, I do not. Because the hardship I am caused by being Donor conceived is not that I am denied my father, my real father is the one I have at home, the one who has raised me and made me the person I am, the one who has been honest with me and the one who supports me in writing this. No, I do not care to know the man who helped to biologically produce me. I do, however, care to know where I am from, in the world, where my cultural roots lie, as well as my ancestors. At this time in my life, I want to know where I am from, so I might finally navigate where I am going. A law designed to stop the identity of Donors being disclosed prohibits me from ever finding out this information, which causes no disclosure of information that could contribute to identification. Moreover, even if that information were legally available, it is most likely that it has been destroyed, due to negligent practice of Codes of Conduct. It is great that parents have access to reproductive therapies, that loving couples are able to conceive and make the families they always wanted. It is important to remember though, that these unions produce children, who one day, like me, will become adults. It is no good to be an adult in the world without a semblance of your origin. This information, if reproductive therapy is to continue should be available to the children of those unions. A human has a right to know where they came from. I did not ask to be brought into the world in this way, but I am grateful that I was. All I ask now is that I have some say in finding out who I am.