

Junior Doc

P HUTTON
BSc PhD MB ChB FRCA

RECEIVED
25 MAY 1999

20 May 1999

Una O'Brian ✓ 25/5
Secretary
The Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry
2-10 Temple Way
Bristol
BS2 0BY

Dear Ms O'Brian

Many thanks for your letter dated 14 May 1999 (ref: UO/lb).

I was appointed as a Clinical Lecturer in the Department of Anaesthesia at the University of Bristol in April 1982. The post carried honorary senior registrar status and I obtained my Certificate of Higher Professional Training in Anaesthesia (CHPTA) on 16 October 1985. From July 1984 until June 1985 I was seconded to the NHS as a full time senior registrar and worked at Frenchay Hospital. Otherwise, the whole of my training following my appointment as a lecturer was carried out at either Southmead Hospital or the Bristol Royal Infirmary (BRI) until I left in August 1986.

At the time it was not usual for trainees to carry log books of cases that they had done so I have no direct records of my clinical work at the BRI. What I have to say is therefore from memory. As far as I know I was at the BRI during the following periods:

- from April 1983 until June 1984
- from July 1985 until August 1986

The whole of my cardiac experience, as I recall, was during the second period.

At the time, cardiac paediatric bypass cases and catheter investigations were done at the BRI and non-bypass cases at the Bristol Children's Hospital.

My memory is that junior anaesthetists were well supervised by consultant anaesthetists. Towards the end of my training there were some non-bypass cases (e.g. co-arctation repair, catheter investigations) which I did alone but all paediatric bypass cases had a consultant present throughout or at least in the next theatre. All those cases which I did undertake 'solo' were first discussed with a consultant who was always present in the hospital during the procedure.

I cannot ever remember having any difficulty contacting consultants when they were on call or getting them in when appropriate.

In the last few months of my appointment (following the award of the CHPTA), I undertook some extra cardiac lists (mainly adult) before a newly appointed consultant arrived.