

**Bristol and Weston
Health Authority**

01 May 1987

Our Ref IAB/LMH

Your Ref



District Headquarters,
10 Marlborough Street, Bristol BS1 3NP Avon.
Telephone 290666 Ext. [REDACTED]

8 May 1987

To: Dr H S Joffe
Dr S C Jordan
Mr J D Wisheart
Mr J P Dhasmana

Dear Mr Dhasmana

NEONATAL AND INFANT CARDIAC SURGERY AND PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGICAL SERVICES

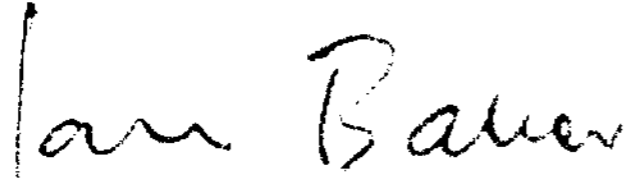
Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 26 April to Dr Crompton, the Chief Medical Officer of the Welsh Office.

I share your concerns with regard to the prematurity of the job description concerning the paediatric cardiological post to be based in Cardiff and holding a contract with this Authority whilst there is considerable uncertainty and confusion over the nature of the cardiological and cardiac surgical response that those in Wales wish to receive. As you may be aware, several London hospitals as well as Southampton, have cardiologists who are active in holding clinics in South and Mid Wales and referring patients to their own centres for cardiac surgery. Unless the Welsh Office and the constituent Authorities decide where they wish to spend their resources and organise the referral patterns through the relevant cardiologist, then we cannot be confident about the volume of service which will be required from our units here in Bristol. If this is not agreed, then we cannot sensibly determine the implications for our services in terms of space and staffing nor can we make appropriate charges upon the Welsh Office or any other DHSS funding source to cover the costs of the service.

I am meeting with Dr Skone of South Glamorgan Health Authority in order to identify with him all the issues that need address and to try and determine how these are going to be addressed in Wales and within what timescale. Until we have formal agreements with the Welsh Office and individual Health Authorities, I do not think that we should be undertaking any services to Welsh patients other than to neonates and infants from Gwent Health Authority. Even with Gwent HA we do not have full formal agreements, although I know that the DMO from Gwent is anxious to establish such agreements. This can probably proceed and we can make sure that resources are covered appropriately including travelling time. I am aware that there have been some informal visits to West Glamorgan and Dyfed Health Authorities, but I must advise that until the matters which I have raised above are settled that these unresourced services should not continue.

I have been careful to indicate in all my communications that we are most anxious to assist South Wales and the onus is upon them to get their house in order. Unfortunately, I learn that there are mounting political pressures to limit any out-of-Wales cardiological and cardiac surgical services. I will keep you informed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ian Baker".

Dr I A Baker
Assistant General Manager (Planning)/
District Medical Officer

cc Dr J Roylance
Miss J Jerrard
Miss M Stoneham
Dr M Freeman