

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

Statement to The Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry

- 1) This statement is made by Mr Barry Jackson MS FRCS, President, The Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN.

- 2) The aims, date of establishment and legal foundations of the body

The College was established by Royal Charter in 1800 as The Royal College of Surgeons in London, its title changing to The Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1843. There have been a series of further charters and supplementary charters awarded to the College. The College registered with the Charity Commission in 1963. Its original object was the promotion and encouragement of the study and practice of the art and science of surgery. In the spirit of the foundation charter, the College's mission statement has recently been defined as:

The Royal College of Surgeons of England is an independent professional body committed to promoting and advancing the highest standards of surgical care for patients.

- 3) The nature of its membership, and numbers

In broad terms, the membership of the College comprises those who have passed one or more of its professional examinations. The College awards a primary qualifying diploma (until 1993 the MRCS, subsequently the LRCS) and a postgraduate diploma marking the satisfactory completion of basic surgical training (the FRCS until 1998, the MRCS thereafter, but with provision for a limited number of individuals to continue to be awarded the FRCS until 2000). With the re-designation of its diplomas, the FRCS with a specialty suffix will in due course be awarded to those who pass a further intercollegiate examination towards the end of specialist training. Therefore, the membership of the College includes individuals whose only link with the College may have been to take a primary qualifying examination, but comprises mainly