

19. The new Unit at the BCH was built some time around 1995 to 1996. At the same time BCH built a new theatre, increased the size of the ICU from 7 beds to 11 or 12 beds, and appointed a new paediatric cardio-thoracic surgeon Mr Ash Pawade. Mr Ash Pawade still works at BCH.

Mr Wisheart and Mr Dhasmana

20. In relation to Mr Dhasmana and Mr Wisheart, I have sat in with them many times whilst they explained to parents and family members the operation required. In my professional opinion they explained carefully and showed a great deal of empathy with the family. They drew diagrams to explain the surgery to the families. They were always careful to fully explain the risks involved. They both did closed surgery at BCH. Open cardio thoracic surgery was undertaken at BRI. Counsellors or a nurse always sat in these meetings with the parents. The nurse caring for the child sat in the meetings if they were free enough to attend. Most of the discussions with the parents and the surgeons were held at BCH. Cardiologists would see the parents first and say whether they had referred the child to the surgeon. Many of the children were very sick and in my view would not have survived transfer to other units in the country. There was a general view among the nursing staff in the Intensive Care Unit and the Baby Unit at BCH that this was the only chance they had of survival. If the operation was not feasible we transferred them back to the referring hospital or nursed the child until he or she died. I have never had any concerns about Mr Dhasmana's or Mr Wisheart's competence. I would have found it impossible to remain in my post if I felt that their skills were detrimental to the care of their