

BRI Inquiry**Comments of the United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust on matters raised
in the Witness Statement of Erica Jane Pottage****Paragraph 3**

As Mrs Pottage had just given birth, she required the continuing supervision of Midwives. She was thus appropriately admitted to the Maternity Unit in St Michael's Hospital, which is connected by a private underground subway to the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children, where Thomas had been admitted.

Paragraph 5

As soon as Mrs Pottage no longer required Midwifery care, accommodation was arranged for her adjacent to the Special Care Unit. The Trust regrets that she found it "drab and dingy". One can understand that Mrs Pottage felt very alone with her husband in Devon, although it is to be noted that she had been seen by Mrs Helen Vegoda, the Cardiac Counsellor at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

Paragraph 8

The Inquiry has been made aware of the long-standing efforts of the Trust to move Paediatric Cardiac Surgery to the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

Paragraph 9

Mrs Pottage states that she saw Helen Stratton, the Counsellor at the Bristol Royal Infirmary for parents of children undergoing Paediatric Cardiac Surgery.

Paragraph 10

Mrs Pottage's moves 3 times in 10 days was entirely appropriate. First of all, she was under the care of Midwives and when this was no longer necessary, she was located next to her child in the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children. When he was transferred to the Bristol Royal Infirmary, arrangements were again made for her to be as near as possible to him.

Paragraph 11

The Trust would not wish to formally comment on this paragraph, but Mr Dhasmana may wish to do so.

8.10.99

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