

8 *most unlikely that management would be involved in what*
 9 *was called "medical audit" or "clinical audit". Indeed,*
 10 *one of the concerns of many hospitals up and down the*
 11 *country when these meetings were instigated in the late*
 12 *1980s and early 1990s was that management should not be*
 13 *party to them and that this was a confidential matter*
 14 *between the clinicians concerned. You will notice the*
 15 *stress laid on confidentiality in the document that you*
 16 *have on the screen at the moment, on another page, and*
 17 *subsequent College guidelines.*

Comment:

Mr Jackson is probably right in saying that, in the late 1980s, management would not be directly involved in audit, although many management teams were closely associated with the resources required to carry out audit and, in some cases, with providing active support and encouragement.

Day 28, page 97:

17 *A. I think the confidentiality still remains, and I think*
 18 *surgeons have been reassured that to the best of my*
 19 *knowledge litigation has not ensued as a result of these*
 20 *meetings. I am certainly not aware of that. So, yes,*
 21 *confidence has been gained to some extent -- well, to*
 22 *a large extent -- on that particular score.*
 23 *Your other point was ...*

Comment:

I agree with Mr Jackson. I certainly have never heard of litigation resulting from audit activity.

Day 28, page 102:

9 *Q. One does not necessarily need to look at the performance*
 10 *of individual surgeons; there may be other problems on*
 11 *quality of outcome revealed by audit which do not*
 12 *necessarily impact on an individual's performance.*
 13 *There may be a wide series of difficulties thrown up.*
 14 *I did not intend to suggest in any way that that was the*
 15 *only thing I was looking at.*
 16 *But would it be fair to draw from your answers the*
 17 *conclusion that there were not generally very clear*
 18 *protocols as to what went up to management and the*
 19 *result was that it was for the clinicians largely to*
 20 *determine what information was passed up the chain in*
 21 *order, perhaps, to support a case for particular changes*
 22 *to be made within a hospital?*
 23 *A. Yes. I think that is a fair analysis.*

Comment:

I agree that it is fair to say that there were no clear guidelines about what audit results could be passed to management within Trusts and within Health Authorities and that, in the early 1990s, the clinicians were in effect in a position to choose what was reported to management and Health Authorities. This began to change later in the 1990s and is still evolving.