

3. KEY CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1. Good quality audit is an integral and essential part of a modern health care system.
- 3.2. In this context, good audit means a system that is :
 - 3.2.1. Statistically reliable;
 - 3.2.2. Administered by informed and independent persons;
 - 3.2.3. Fully public; and
 - 3.2.4. Fully accountable.
- 3.3. Where it appears that there is a weakness in the health care provided, those responsible for audit should inform the hospital and carry out their own investigations.
- 3.4. The purpose of audit should not be to intimidate staff but to resolve difficulties and ascertain the causes of poor performance.
- 3.5. Examples of appropriate action following investigation would be : -
 - 3.5.1. Identification of a need for better funding and/or more staff or equipment.
 - 3.5.2. Identification of a weakness in the hospital's structure - analogous to the split site at Bristol.
 - 3.5.3. Suggestion of re-training of medical staff.
 - 3.5.4. In extreme cases, disciplining of medical staff.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AT THE BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY

Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	BHCAG
1953		JH Gibbon Jr performs first successful operation in which the patient was totally supported by CPB			
1 Oct 1964			Dr Roylance takes up Consultant appointment as Radiologist at BRI		
1966		Rastelli and Kirklin publish details of their system of classification for AV-Canal defects			
1968		Rastelli and McGoon publish research on homograft replacement of RVOT			
Feb 1969			James Wisheart begins work as Registrar in London		
19 Jun 1970	Start of Edward Heath's administration; Keith Joseph is Secretary of State for Health and Social Security (SSHSS)				
Oct 1970			James Wisheart's first appointment as Senior Registrar (Harefield Hospital)		
1971		F Fontan publishes research on correction of tricuspid atresia through cavopulmonary connection			
Oct 1971			Start of James Wisheart's year-long research fellowship at UAB, under Kirklin		
1972			Jean Pratten and colleagues set up South West Children's Heart Circle		
1 Apr 1972			Dr Steve Jordan starts work as Paediatric Cardiologist		
4 Mar 1974					

Harold Wilson PM; Barbara Castle
SSHSS

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Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	BHCAG
1 Apr 1974	NHS Reorganisation Act (1973) comes into effect - reorganisation of Health Authorities to coincide with reorganisation of local government		Establishment of the South West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA), under the control of which the Bristol Health District (BHD)		
1975		AD Jatene reports successful anatomical correction for TGA			
15 Jun 1975			James Wisheart's appointment as Consultant Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeon at the BRI		
7 Aug 1975			James Wisheart's first open-heart paediatric operation at the BRI		
23 Aug 1975			Janardan Dhasmana first joins BRI as Registrar		
1976			Mr Keen's last paediatric cardiac operations		
5 Apr 1976	Callaghan PM: Ennals SSHSS				
1977	The Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland begins keeping the Cardiac Surgical Register		Joyce Woodcraft becomes a Sister at BCH		
1978			Sheila Willats begins Consultant work in Bristol		
1 Nov 1978			Janardan Dhasmana appointed Senior Registrar at BRI		
27 Mar 1979					Birth of John Sheridan, whose mother, Ellen, gave evidence to the inquiry on Day 4
4 May 1979	Thatcher PM: Jenkin SSHSS				
1 Jan 1980			Start of Janardan Dhasmana's year-long research fellowship at UAB, under Kirklin		
9 Jan 1980			Hyam Joffe starts work as Paediatric Cardiologist		
14 Sep 1981	Norman Fowler becomes SSHSS				

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Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	BHCAG
1982			Appointment of Gordon Stirrat as Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at University of Bristol		
1 Apr 1982			Bristol and Weston DHA (B&WDHA) established, following amalgamation of the 2 named districts		
1 May 1982			John Vann Jones first joins the BRI		
1 Aug 1982			Start of Janardan Dhasmana's 11 months at Great Ormond Street, under De Leval and Stark. During this period, he first observes the Switch operation (see 84:47)		
1983	Peter Doyle first joins DHSS as Medical Officer		PJ Berry appointed Consultant Paediatric Pathologist at BCH		
1 Apr 1983	Commencement of supra-regionally funded services (not at this stage, including neonatal and infant cardiac services)		Sally Masey takes up appointment as Consultant Anaesthetist at the BRI		
1984			Kay Armstrong begins work as theatre nurse at BRI		
17 Feb 1984					Birth of Caroline Waite, whose mother, Anne, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 95
1 Apr 1984	Neonatal and Infant Cardiac Surgery becomes funded on a supra-regional basis		Bristol receives funding as a supra-regional centre for Neonatal and Infant Cardiac Surgery		
1985			Sheila Willats takes charge of BRI ITU Joyce Woodcraft becomes Senior Sister in charge of nursing at BCH ITU		

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AT THE BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY

Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	BHCAG
1 Feb 1985			John Roylance is appointed first District General Manager of Bristol & Weston Health Authority		
6 Mar 1985					Birth of Luke Bromley, whose mother, Lorraine Pentecost, gave evidence to the inquiry on Day 95
15 Mar 1985					Wisheart undertakes surgery on Luke Bromley, who dies 8 weeks later
29 Jun 1985					Birth of Amelie Shipley, whose mother, Phappa, gave evidence to the inquiry on Day 95
1986			First edition of Cardiac Surgery by Professor Stirrat becomes a member of RHA Kirklin & Barratt-Boyes		
1 Jan 1986			Janardan Dhasmana begins work as Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon		
Apr 1986	DHSS seek advice from medical profession re supra-regional designation of neonatal and infant cardiac services: first Working Party appointed by Royal College of Surgeons				
1 Apr 1986			Peter Durie becomes Chairman of Bristol and Weston DHA		
18 Apr 1986					Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Caroline Waite, who dies the next day
18 May 1986					Birth of Stephen Rex, whose mother, Brenda, gave evidence to the inquiry on Day 53
2 Jun 1986					Wisheart undertakes surgery on John Shendan, who dies that day
1 Aug 1986					Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Stephen Rex, who dies that day

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AT THE BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY

Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	BHCAG
1 Sep 1986	Report of the first Working Party into supra regional neonatal and infant cardiac services (RCSE 0002 0008-17)				
2 Oct 1986	The first Working Party's report is discussed at SRSAG meeting (WVO 0001 0234)				
15 Nov 1986					Birth of Jacinta Shortis, whose mother, Maria, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 78
22 Nov 1986					Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Jacinta Shortis, who dies 9 weeks later
1987	Alan Angillely takes over as secretary of the SRSAG				
21 Jan 1987				At a meeting of the Welsh Medical Committee, it is mentioned that 'Bristol seems to a number of clinicians not to be offering the very best possible service' (WO 0001 0279)	
13 Jun 1987	Appointment of J Moore as SSHSS				
16 Jun 1987				BBC Wales screens a current affairs programme which, <i>inter alia</i> , raises questions about the quality of the BRT's paediatric cardiac surgery	
3 Aug 1987				Wishart, Dhasmana, Jordan and Joffe write to the Chairman of Cardiology at the Royal College of Physicians, strenuously refuting the allegations in the BBC Wales programme (UBHT 0133 0029-31)	
19 Sep 1987					Birth of Bethan Bradley, whose father, Paul, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 53

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Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	BHCAG
1988			Appointment of John Farndon as Professor and Head of Division of Surgery at University of Bristol		
Jan 1988	The DHSS approach Sir Keith Ross (President of the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons), asking for a survey affirming the DHSS's policy re infant and neonatal surgery				
22 Feb 1988			Janardan Dhasmana undertakes his first Switch operation		
23 Jun 1988					Birth of Sophie Plackett, whose mother, Penny, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 4
1 Jul 1988			Rob Martin's appointment to BRI (initially, in general paediatrics)		
13 Jul 1988					Birth of Gary Spicer, whose mother, Brenda, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 44
25 Jul 1988	DHSS becomes DSS and DoH; Kenneth Clarke is Secretary of State for Health (SSH)				
1 Sep 1988			Steve Bolsin takes up his post as Consultant in Cardiac Anaesthesia		
21 Sep 1988	Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons appoints a second Working Party on supra-regional infant and neonatal surgery				
10 Nov 1988					Birth of Jessica Hill, whose mother, Diana Parker, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 83
22 Nov 1988					Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Sophie Plackett, who suffers serious neurological damage

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AT THE BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY

Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	BHCAG
Jan 1989		Brawn and his colleagues from Melbourne publish results of their TAPVD series 1979-87 - a hospital mortality of 2.3% is cited	Chris Monk takes up appointment as Consultant Anaesthetist at the BRI		
6 Jan 1989			Rob Martin begins full-time duties as a paediatric cardiologist		Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Amalie Shipley, who dies that day
Feb 1989					
Apr 1989	Sr Michael Carlisle becomes Chairman of SRSAG				
11 Apr 1989					Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Gary Spicer, who dies 8 days later
July 1989	Interim Report of the second Working Party on supra-regional neonatal and infant cardiac services (DOH 0002 0023-37)			The Working Party's report clearly shows Bristol under-performance relative to other units, but does not make any comment on this	
18 Aug 1989					Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Jessica Hill, who dies 4 days later
28 Sep 1989	The second Working Party's report is discussed at SRSAG meeting (DOH 0002 0213-220)				
22 Dec 1989					Birth of Venny Cumow, whose father, Malcolm, gave evidence to the inquiry on Day 3
1990			Retirement of Gerald Keen	Bolsin approaches Professor Prys-Roberts, raising his doubts about the quality of surgery at the BRI compared to the Brompton	
10 Jan 1990					Birth of David Burton, whose mother, Linda, gave evidence to the inquiry on Day 5
Feb 1990		Brawn and his colleagues from Melbourne publish results of their AVSD operations - a hospital mortality of 3% is cited			

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AT THE BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY

Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	BHCAG
19 Mar 1990				Audit meeting, showing BRT's mortality in infant operations as double the national average (UBHT 0061 0126)	
23 Apr 1990			Wisheart's first AVSD operation of the 1990s (hence, the first of the series for which he was investigated by the GMC)		
5 Jul 1990	NHS and Community Care Act 1990 legislates for the creation of NHS Trusts				
25 Jul 1990				Bolsin writes to Roylance, expressing concern about the paediatric cardiac unit's high mortality rate for infants (UBHT 0061 0019)	
summer 1990				Wisheart warns Bolsin not to take the kind of action he took in writing to Roylance	
12 Sep 1990					Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Verity Currow, who dies 4 days later
Oct 1990			Appointment of Helen Stratton as Cardiac Liaison Nurse		
9 Nov 1990					Birth of Melissa Clarke, whose mother, Tracey, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 1
28 Nov 1990	John Major PM: William Waldegrave SSH				
29 Nov 1990					Birth of Josie Millers, whose father, John Mallone, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 95
5 Dec 1990			First meeting of Medical Audit Committee		
6 Dec 1990					Wisheart undertakes surgery on Josie Millers, who dies 5 weeks later

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AT THE BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY

Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	BHCAG
late 1990 / early 1991				The anaesthetists meet and discuss the Switch programme, agreeing that Williams and Monk, rather than Bolsin, will present concerns to the surgeons.	
1991			Professor Stirrat becomes Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at University of Bristol		
14 Feb 1991					Birth of Samantha Rickard, whose mother Helen, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 52
28 Feb 1991					Wisheart undertakes surgery on David Burton, who dies 7 days later
1 Apr 1991			Formation of United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust; Dr Roylance Chief Executive; Peter Durie Chairman; Dean-Hart Medical Director & Chairman of Hospital Medical Committee		
Jul 1991			PJ Berry takes up Chair in Paediatric Pathology at University of Bristol		
28 Jul 1991				Meeting of the surgeons and anaesthetists at Mr Wisheart's house, mortality rates and problem operations discussed. Bolsin took minutes of the meeting (UBHT 0031 0046-51), and was subsequently asked not to do so in future.	
Sep 1991	Jane Ashwell becomes Senior Medical Officer at the DoH				
1 Oct 1991			Bristol and District Health Authority (B&DHA) comes into being, replacing B&WDHA (amongst others)		

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Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	BHCAG
17 Oct 1991					Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Melissa Clarke, who dies 9 days later
Nov 1991			Su Underwood takes up appointment as Consultant Anaesthetist at the BRI		
20 Nov 1991				Catherine Hawkins writes to Roylance, expressing dissatisfaction with the poor reputation of the Paediatric Cardiac Service offered by the Trust (UBHT 0038 0430)	
Dec 1991			Paul Forrest takes over as acting Coroner		
Jan 1992	Steven Owen becomes secretary of the SRSAG				
3 Jan 1992			Martin Elliott writes to Wisheart declining the Chair of Cardiac Surgery, citing poor pay, the split site, lack of management willpower to ameliorate the situation and poor resources (JDW 0003 0102-03)	Roylance replies to Hawkins's letter (UBHT 0038 0425-28); large sections drafted by Wisheart (see UBHT 0038 0432-37)	
30 Jan 1992			Janardan Dhasmana undertakes his first neonatal Switch operation, on Sian Collyer, who dies the following day		
3 Feb 1992					Wisheart undertakes surgery on Samantha Rickard, who dies that day
4 Feb 1992	At a meeting of the SRSAG Sir Terence English offers to set up a Working Party to consider the designation of neonatal and infant cardiac services (DOH 0003 0033-43)				

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1 Apr 1992			Wisheart becomes Medical Director & Chairman of Hospital Medical Committee		
11 Apr 1992	Virginia Bottomley appointed SSH				
8 May 1992				First Private Eye article (SLD 0002 0003)	
19 May 1992				Birth of Mia Parsons, whose father, Michael, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 2	
Jun 1992	Sir Terence English's Working Party produces its report (RCSE 0002 0165-77)			Andy Black & Steve Bolsin gather data for their "secret" audit of paediatric cardiac surgery Jan 1990 - Jul 1992	
Jul 1992					
1 Jul 1992			Paul Forrest appointed as full-time Coroner		
3 Jul 1992				Second Private Eye article (SLD 0002 0005)	
20 Jul 1992				Birth of Jason Bwyne, whose father, Douglas, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 6	
28 Jul 1992	Sir Terence English's Working Party's report is discussed at SRSAG meeting; contrary to the report's recommendations, designation is decided upon (DOH 0002 0097-107)			At SRSAG meeting, Halliday says he has been approached by English, who expressed reservations about the continued designation of Bristol	Dharmiana undertakes surgery on Jason Bwyne, who dies that day
1 Oct 1992			Gianni Angelini appointed as BHF Professor of Cardiac Surgery at University of Bristol		
9 Oct 1992				Third Private Eye article (SLD 0002 0006)	

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1 Dec 1992			Janardan Dhasmana goes to Birmingham to watch Bill Brawn perform a Switch operation at Birmingham, following five consecutive mortalities amongst the neonate patients		
31 Dec 1992					Birth of Jazmine Bradley, whose mother, Marie Edwards, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 95
1993		Second edition of Cardiac Surgery by Kirklin & Barratt-Boyes			
6 May 1993					Wisheart undertakes surgery on Mia Parsons, who dies that day
18 May 1993					Birth of Daniel Willis, whose mother and father, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Days 55 and 87 respectively
25 May 1993					Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Daniel Willis, who dies that day
27 May 1993			Dr Jordan retires		
11 Jun 1993					Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Jazmine Bradley, who dies that day
22 Jun 1993					Birth of Joshua Loveday
3 Jul 1993					Birth of Thomas Pottage, whose father, Erica, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 44
6 Jul 1993					Birth of Corinna Tarantino, whose mother, Sharon, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 53
13 Jul 1993					Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Thomas Pottage, who dies that day
30 Jul 1993					Birth of Jessica Johnson, whose mother, Helen, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 44

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Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	BHCAG
Aug 1993			Stephen Pryn takes up appointment as Consultant Anaesthetist at BRI		
19 Aug 1993					Wisheart undertakes surgery on Bethan Bradley, who dies 7 days later
1 Oct 1993			Alison Hayes takes up post as Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist		
17 Nov 1993				Angelini goes to GOS and seeks Jagslay Stark's advice in relation to problems at Bristol	
29 Nov 1993					Birth of Andrew Peacock, whose mother, Sharon, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 95
29 Nov 1993					Birth of Max Johnson, whose mother, Julia, gave evidence to the Inquiry on Day 44
9 Dec 1993				Bolsin takes his concerns outside the unit by speaking to Jane Ashwell	
13 Dec 1993				Ashwell writes to Bolsin, advising him of possible channels for his concern (UBHT 0061 0285)	
23 Dec 1993				Angelini and Farrdon meet Wisheart and force him to discuss ways to improve the service	
Mar 1994		Marc De Leval et al publish "Analysis of a Cluster of Surgical Failures"		Angelini and Monk go to Roylance to "inform him that we had concerns over the performance of the paediatric cardiac surgery unit" (76:143)	
Apr 1994		At the DoH, Peter Doyle takes over responsibility for, amongst other things, cardio-thoracic services			

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Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	BHCAG
1 Apr 1994	De-designation of Neonatal and Infant Cardiac Surgery as a Supra-Regional Service Sir Alan Langlands appointed Chief Executive of the NHS		Wisheart is relieved of his position as Chairman of the HMC by Gabriel Laszlo Formal inception of Directorate of Cardiac Services (Chairman: Professor Vann Jones; General Manager: Lesley Salmon)		
5 Apr 1994				Wisheart, Bolsin, Angelini and Monk meet at the Blisto 21, failing to address — let alone resolve — tensions between them	
18 Apr 1994				Bolsin speaks of his concerns to Janet Maher (General Manager of Surgery)	
10 May 1994				Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Corinna Tarantino, who dies 2 days later	
12 May 1994				Angelini and Vann Jones write to Durie, setting out concerns about paediatric cardiac services, and talking about the "problem" of competition from Southampton and Cardiff (UBHT 0061 246)	
21 Jun 1994				Letter from the 6 anaesthetists to Monk, expressing concern about the Switch programme	
30 Jun 1994				Dhasmana undertakes surgery on Max Johnson, who dies 12 days later	
1 Jul 1994			Robert McKinlay takes over from Peter Durie as Chairman of UBHT		
18 Jul 1994				Bolsin's provisional report on the Switch shows excessive mortality (GMC 0016 0035)	
19 Jul 1994				Bolsin speaks with Peter Doyle, and passes him a brown envelope containing his audit data	

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21 Jul 1994				Doyle writes to Angelini expressing his concern about the growing dissatisfaction with the BRJ's mortality rate	
19 Aug 1994				Angelini replies to Doyle, reassuring him that measures are in hand to remedy the shortcomings of the unit (UBHT 0061 0273)	
25 Aug 1994			Wisheart's last AVSD operation, resulting in the death of the patient (Hanna Silcox)		
12 Sep 1994				Roylance writes to Doyle, confirming UBHT's "awareness of this problem" (UBHT 0061 0278)	
Oct 1994				Roylance mentions the concerns of Bolsin, Doyle and the anaesthetists to McKinlay	
31 Oct 1994				Bolsin's summary of Wisheart's AVSD operations shows apparently atrocious results (UBHT 0054 0093)	
Nov 1994				Meeting of all five cardiac surgeons at Wisheart's house - Angelini urges an open review of adult and paediatric figures	
17 Nov 1994				Farrdon meets with Wisheart, who shows "tacit agreement that paediatric figures not good" (GMC 0004 0080)	
10 Jan 1995				Angelini writes to Wisheart as Medical Director in an attempt to stop the Loyeday operation (JDW 0007 0030)	

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11 Jan 1995				<p>Peter Doyle phones Roylance, after having been informed of the proposed operation on Joshua Loveday by Bolsin and Angelini</p> <p>Pre-Loveday operation meeting: on the basis of risk for patients of Joshua's age, the decision to go ahead is made. Steve Bolsin finds himself in "a minority of one" in his opposition</p>	<p>Dhasmana operates on Joshua Loveday, who dies in theatre</p>
12 Jan 1995					
13 Jan 1995				<p>Bolsin and Angelini ring Peter Doyle to inform him of the outcome of the Loveday operation</p>	
16 Jan 1995				<p>Angelini writes to Roylance, urging an external inquiry (UBHT 0217 0138)</p>	
25 Jan 1995				<p>Doyle writes to Roylance, expressing his dissatisfaction with the unit, and warning that "Until... doubts can be resolved, it would be extremely inadvisable to undertake any further neonatal or infant cardiac surgery" (UBHT 0061 0282)</p> <p>Wisheart writes to Marc De Leval, inviting him to undertake an independent review of services at the BRI (UBHT 0061 0337)</p>	
30 Jan 1995				<p>Wisheart writes to Stewart Hunter, asking for his help with the review (UBHT 0061 0339)</p>	
10 Feb 1995				<p>Hunter and De Leval visit the BRI</p>	
1 Mar 1995				<p>First version of the Hunter / De Leval report is sent to Roylance (GMC 0006 0054-59)</p>	

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28 Mar 1995				Second version of Hunter De Level report is faxed to Nix	
4 Apr 1995				First media reports of concerns about the BRI's performance appear on BBC News West	
5 Apr 1995				Daily Telegraph publishes an article detailing problems at the BRI	
6 Apr 1995				Close Up West, a 30-minute current affairs programme, is devoted to the breaking scandal	
19 Apr 1995				Dawn Primarolo MP writes to Roylance, asking for an explanation	
24 Apr 1995			Boisin writes to Monk, expressing confusion as to "the unofficial change that has happened to my contract over the last two weeks" (BMA 0001 0011)		
1 May 1995			Ash Pawade takes up appointment as Consultant Paediatric Cardiac Surgeon		Wisheart undertakes surgery on Andrew Peacock, who dies 4 weeks later
2 May 1995				In a letter to Ian Baker, Roylance explains that Wisheart will now "cease to take on any new paediatric patients" (UBHT 0061 0308)	
6 May 1995			Stephen Dorrell appointed SSH		
22 Jun 1995					Dhasmana undertakes what was supposed to be definitive surgery on Jessica Johnson, who has since been fitted with a pacemaker, and continues to suffer residual cardiac problems

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AT THE BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY

Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	EHCAG
Sep 1995			Paediatric cardiac surgery is transferred from the BRI to the BCH		
5 Sep 1995			Janardan Dhasmana's last paediatric open-heart operation at the BRI (a successful cavo-pulmonary connection on a double inlet left ventricle patient)		
21 Oct 1995			Dr Roylance retires; Hugh Ross takes over as CE		
Mar 1996			Professor Vann Jones resigns as Clinical Director of Cardiac Services		
27 Mar 1996					
1 Apr 1996	Health Authorities Act (1995) comes into effect		The SWRHA and the B&DHA are replaced by a single body, the Avon Health Authority	Channel 4 broadcasts an edition of Dispatches looking at failings of the BRI	
22 Aug 1996			Roger Baird becomes Chairman of the HMC		
Nov 1996			James Wisheart's last paediatric open-heart operation at the BRI (an uneventful ASD closure)		
30 Nov 1996			Wisheart voluntarily suspends his duties		
1 Apr 1997			End of Robert McKinlay's tenure as Chairman of UBHT		
29 Apr 1997			Roger Baird formally takes over as Medical Director, having been acting director since Wisheart's "garden leave"		
2 May 1997				GMC inquiry into Wisheart, Dhasmana and Roylance is announced	

PM Tony Blair: SSH Frank Dobson

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AT THE BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY

Date	National Events	Clinical Milestones	Local Events	Development of Concern	BHCAG
13 Oct 1997				The GMC Professional Conduct Committee, under Sir Donald Irvine, begins its hearings	
29 May 1998				The GMC announces its findings	
18 Jun 1998				The GMC gives its determination, including the decisions to "strike off" Wisheart and Roylance, and ben Dhasmana from paediatric work for three years	
8 Sep 1998			Janardan Dhasmana's contract with the UBHT is terminated	Debson announces Public Inquiry	
27 Oct 1998				Preliminary hearing of the Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry	
16 Mar 1999				Opening of the Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry's oral hearings	
12 Oct 1999	Alan Milburn becomes SSH				
16 Dec 1999				The Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry's oral hearings come to a close	