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## IN CONFIDENCE

Dr Winyard DCMO

From: Dr P Doyle HC, ---

Dr G Scally SWR

Date: 24 January 1995

CCs: Mr J Holden PS/SoS  
 Dr Harvey PS/CMO  
 Dr Bourdillon HC(M)  
 Dr J Graham HC(M)1  
 Mr Waterhouse ASPU  
 Ms C Phillips ASPU  
 Mr B Clark ID  
 Mr W Flynn CA-IU

**NEONATAL AND INFANT CARDIAC SURGERY: BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY**

1. Further to my minute of 16 January (copy attached) alerting you to the potential problems at Bristol Royal Infirmary, matters have deteriorated further. It seem now very likely the current difficulties will become public sooner or later.

x 2. I understand that since the fatal "switch" operation on 12th January, two more children have had complex cardiac operations performed one of whom has died and the other is severely ill on ICU. I was contacted by Steve Bolsin (cardiac anaesthetist) late yesterday afternoon about these two cases. Last night I was contacted at home by Bill Brawn, a paediatric surgeon from Birmingham, who wanted to know whether I was aware of the problem in Bristol. I have also discussed the situation with John Parker, President of the British Cardiac Society, who also aware of the difficulties and is happy to use his influence to set up an external enquiry.

3. It is still not clear whether there is a serious problem with cardiac surgery or whether this is a serious breakdown in professional relationships. There is cause for grave concern that the Trust has not taken action to resolve the problem; that childrens' lives might have been put at risk and that rumour and innuendo have been allowed to spread apparently unchecked.

3. I spoke to Dr Roylance (Chief Executive) this morning and advised him in the strongest possible terms to stop complex neonatal and infant cardiac surgery forthwith and to expedite the proposed Enquiry that we discussed the previous Monday (see attached copy of my letter). I also advised Dr Roylance that yourself and other colleagues in the Department now had to be informed of the situation.

4. You will see from this minute that I have informed Secretary of State's office, Press Office and CA-IU in case the story leaks to the media. I am not sure whether further action is required at present but I am happy to be advised by you or copyees.