

4.1.6 Mr Ross told members of a recent meeting, with the Chief Executive and CMO, which addressed issues of concern to specialist units at risk from the contracting arrangements. This did not include supra regional services. He said that the Chief Executive intended to produce a paper for the JCC in March. The Chairman thought it would be useful to draw the problems facing this particular service to the attention of the CE and CMO.

4.1.7 The Chairman asked the secretariat to contact the CE/CMO group to see if their deliberations covered, or could cover, this service. Subject to the outcome of these discussions, interim designation could continue for a maximum of 3 years.

ACTION : Secretariat

4.2 Neonatal Infant Cardiac Surgery SRS(92)2

4.2.1 Introducing the paper the Chairman reminded the Group of the continuing review of the provision of neonatal and infant cardiac surgery.

4.2.2 Sir Terence English said that most recent reports concluded that keeping 90/95% of neonatal and infant cardiac surgery work concentrated in 6 or 8 centres was most beneficial to patient care. He suggested three options for the service :

- (i) de-designate the service
- (ii) take no action and let market forces restrict the spread of the service
- (iii) reduce the number of designated units.

He offered to set up a working party to consider look into the suitability of each option and make recommendations to the Group.

4.2.3 The Chairman welcomed the idea of a working party but said that urgent action was necessary.

4.2.4 After discussion, members agreed to Sir Terence's suggestion that he would set up a working group to consider the