

- 2 -

Information was obtained for the years 1988 to 1991 from all of these Units on activity and also mortality. The main emphasis of the report was on the former, but disaggregated data on mortality, which was not case-mix adjusted, was also included, both for the neo-natal and infant age group (ie below one year) and the older age group.

The report was sent to the Department of Health on 2nd July. When I received Dr Zorab's letter, I reviewed the mortality statistics from Bristol and it was clear that they were disturbingly high in comparison with the other Units. In consultation with Professor Browse, I, therefore, informed the Department of Health that it was the College's view that Bristol should be de-designated, along with two other Units which we recommended be de-designated on activity criteria. I then left the country for three weeks and it was only following my return that I heard that at its meeting on 29th July the Supra Regional Services Advisory Group had decided not to accept the advice of the College but to de-designate the whole service. Included in the minutes of that meeting is a reference to the fact that since submitting the report: "Sir Terence English had expressed reservations about the continued designation of the Bristol Unit".

I hope that this rather long-winded explanation covers the points raised by you in the fourth, sixth and seventh paragraph of your letter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Your sincerely,

Terence English