

3. Appropriate numbers of Neonates and Infants are undergoing cardiac surgery in 5 of the designated centres. Two centres (Newcastle and Bristol) have a less than average turnover of work and should be encouraged to increase their numbers annually. We question the need for 3 designated centres in London. The situation in Leeds is not known (Figure 1).

4. We recommend Annual Audit of surgical activity in this field in relation to the allocation of future funding to the designated centres.

The method of calculating and distributing protected special funding to the designated units should be reviewed by the D.O.H. We suggest that this be related retrospectively to work-load during the previous 2 years rather than to a prospective assessment. The Speciality of Paediatric Cardiology/Surgery should be represented at these discussions.

5. A copy of this report should be sent to the Chairman of the Joint Working Party of the British Cardiac Society and the Royal College of Physicians (Dr Stewart Hunter), who are considering the future of Paediatric Cardiology Services, to share information which is of mutual relevance on these subjects and to all other Units practising cardiac surgery in England and Wales.