



Your reference
Our reference

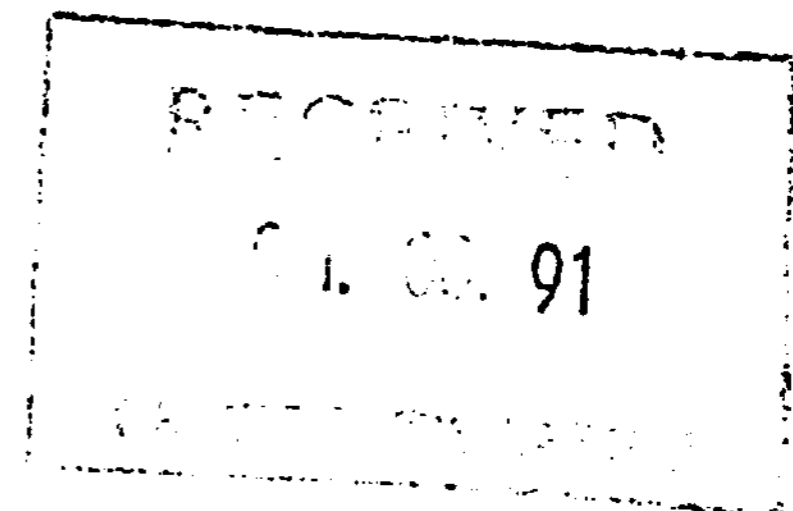
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Sir Terence English KBE PRCS
President
The Royal College of Surgeons
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PN

31 July 1991

Dear Terence,



NEONATAL AND INFANT CARDIAC SURGERY

The Advisory Group at its meeting yesterday considered ways in which the cardiac surgical service for neonates and infants might be rationalised in order to ensure the continued designation of this service. It was suggested that it would be possible to define within the existing designated service those complex cardiac surgical procedures which should continue to be designated and to identify the units where this service could be effectively provided. If this were possible it would mean that some units presently designated under the existing arrangements could then be de-designated thus bringing about a rationalisation of the service.

The Advisory Group would be pleased if your College could convene a small working group on the lines you proposed, to provide the Advisory Group with the College's advice as to what procedures should be considered as appropriate to be designated under the neonatal and supra regional services arrangements and the units which the College believe are appropriately staffed and resourced to provide these services.

The Department would be pleased to give whatever assistance we can to your working group. We would, for example, be pleased to provide these data we have obtained through the new contractual arrangements with the designated units. This data will go as far as identifying the major operative categories but will not give the detail of complexity within the operation categories that you