

5. I am quite clear in my own mind that interventional cardiology should not be included in SRS designation. The really big costs are associated with the operations and post-operative care of complex conditions, many of which have been palliated by interventional cardiology.

7.

- (i) Did the Advisory Group ever conclude that it would not be possible to de-designate smaller units? I rather doubt this.
- (ii) I am sure it is not practical to designate specific operative procedures.
- (iii) I do not understand the logic of the last sentence of this paragraph. Non-designated services would not get the financial benefit of designation, would not be monitored by the Advisory Group, and would be unlikely to expand and probably, in the years to come, unlikely to survive.

8. I believe the Advisory Group should get tough about not including costs of interventional cardiology. If a unit persisted in trying to include these, then they should be informed that de-designation would be considered.

9. As I have already mentioned above, I doubt that units that were funded by Regions or by charity would ever be "appropriately funded". The Welsh Office may be in a different category.

10. I would challenge the statement that "it does not seem possible to bring about a rationalisation of the service within the five to seven units required".

My conclusions are as follows:

- a) I do not think that the service should be de-designated simply because it is difficult to regulate.
- b) I believe your paper underestimates the powerful financial advantages of SRS designation, and the difficulty that non-designated units will have in the future when competing with designated and properly funded centres. This may take two or three years to become manifest and, in the meantime, I believe we should proceed as follows:
 - i) Accept reluctantly that the Welsh Office will establish a Unit in Cardiff, but request that activity and output data be made available to the Advisory Group for annual review to compare with designated English centres.