

HUNTINGDON HEALTH AUTHORITY

## PAPWORTH HOSPITAL

Your Ref. ....

When replying please ask for

Our Ref. .... TAHE/SMF

*NB Cheema agrees  
" he paid insufficient  
attention to Bristol  
results " !!*

CARDIOTHORACIC SURGICAL UNIT

Professor Norman Browse, M.D.,  
President,  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England,  
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields,  
London WC2A 3PN

*" Spoken to Halliday "  
? no further College action*

Dear Norman,

Paediatric Cardiac Surgery in Bristol

Thank you for your letter dated 21st July with a copy of John Zorab's letter to me of the 15th July.

Although I was aware that Bristol was not one of the best paediatric cardiac surgical centres, I had not appreciated that the situation was as serious as described by John Zorab.

I have discussed the matter with Professor David Hamilton from Edinburgh, who was Chairman of the recent R.C.S. (England) Report to the Supraregional Services Advisory Group on the future policy with regard to designation of neonatal and infant cardiac surgery. In this Report, which is to be considered by the Supraregional Services Advisory Group on the 28th July, Bristol was included as one of the centres for designation. However, it is clear from a review of Table 1 in the Report that their mortality statistics both for the infant age group and the older age group is worse than any other centre. David Hamilton agrees that sufficient attention was not paid to this by his working party.

We agreed, therefore, that to allow Bristol to go forward with support from the College might jeopardize designation of the whole service and, with David's agreement, I have spoken to Norman Halliday, who will inform the Supraregional Services Group on Tuesday, 28th, that the College does not support the inclusion of Bristol. I am sure this is the right action.

I tried to get in touch with you on the telephone on Saturday morning but you had left by then. I shall make contact after the 16th August when we will need to decide what else needs doing in the light of John Zorab's letter.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*pp S. D. Flower*  
Sir Terence English, K.B.E., F.R.C.S.  
Consultant Cardiac Surgeon