

THE BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY INQUIRY
Professor Vann Jones' Comments on the Statement of Dr Stephen Bolsin.

1. Page 8, line 9.

I do not know whether this is a reference to my telling Dr Bolsin at our meeting on 16.11.93 that I thought the data in relation to VSD procedures was erroneous, or whether other had also done this. The meeting was re-enacted in a television programme broadcast some two years ago. I had no input into the programme but it correctly portrayed my expression of concern during the meeting regarding the VSD data which had been put forward.

2. Paragraph 2, page 13, lines 1-16

I have already given evidence to the Inquiry regarding the meeting I had with Dr Andy Black following my talk to the non-medical staff in early 1994. I apologised to Dr Black if he thought I was casting aspersions on his statistical ability, which was certainly not the case; but I also again expressed concern that some of the data was fundamentally flawed. I do not think there is any way in which I could have gone further and refuted the validity of the data which I expected them to check. I believe the fact that some of the initial data was flawed lessened the strength of Dr Bolsin's case at the outset and slowed down the process of change.

3. Paragraph 3, page 18, lines 29-40.

I cannot now recall whether at this time I was aware of there being major problems with the arterial switch procedure. Any knowledge which I had would in any event have been secondhand since I had no direct involvement in the care of these babies.

4. Paragraph 4, pages 22 and 23

The Hunter/de Leval report.

I do not recall the arrangements for viewing the report but I am sure that anyone who wanted to could do so. I have no recollection of any discussion regarding use of a camera, though I would have been very surprised at the time had such a request been made.

Signed 

Dated 1/12/99