

THIS IS THE STATEMENT OF BELINDA COLLYER OF [REDACTED]

1. Sian was born on the 18th of January 1992 in St. Pauls Maternity Hospital, Cheltenham. I believe it was about a week before her problems were diagnosed. Sian was transferred to the Bristol Childrens Hospital on the 25th of January 1992.
2. We were seen by a cardiologist who gave us a diagnosis of Transposition of the Arteries with a VSD. Sian was placed in the ITU at the Hospital. The operation was originally scheduled for the 28th of January but was actually carried out on the 30th of January.
3. Prior to the original operation date, my parents, my partner and I met Mr. Dhasmana in the small side ward next to the ITU. He explained Sian's condition and what he intended to do. He also drew a diagram to help explain what the problems were and what he intended to do. Mr. Dhasmana called the operation a switch, and this had been mentioned to us when we first arrived at the hospital.
4. At no time during this conversation, or subsequently, did Mr. Dhasmana or any other member of the hospital staff, give any indication that Sian was to be the first to have this operation for a child of her age.
5. As he left the side ward my father asked Mr. Dhasmana what were the chances of success. His reply was 80% and words to the effect of 4 out of 5 children survive.
6. I have today been shown a copy of a statement numbered WIT 0084 0116 to 0124 and dated the 17th of November 1999 made by Mr. Dhasmana. At page 17, paragraph 13, he alleges that I was informed that " this was a new operation ". Such a claim is untrue. I have also shown the statement to my parents, who support totally, my recollection and were with me on all occasions that I met Mr. Dhasmana.
7. Unfortunately, although Sian returned from the theatre alive, she died shortly after midnight the day of the operation.
8. I first knew of the problems at Bristol through the national papers. Some two months after the revelations I went to a meeting with Dr. Joffe. It was at this meeting that I was told, for the first time, that Sian was the first child in her age group to have the switch operation.

Signed B. CollyerDated 30.11.99