

**RESPONSE OF JAMES D WISHEART TO THE STATEMENT BY
FIONA THOMAS, CLINICAL NURSE MANAGER CARDIAC SERVICES
BRI, DATED 17TH MAY 1999.**

1.PARA. 15-16. CARDIAC SURGICAL UNDERSPEND.

The Sub-Directorate of Cardiac Surgery became part of the new Directorate of Cardiac Services in April 1994. It is true that while in the Directorate of Surgery the under-spend of cardiac surgery was sometimes used to help with the overspend of other sub-directorates within the Directorate of Surgery. The irony is that when cardiac surgery moved to the Directorate of Cardiac Services, certainly in the early years, the cardiac surgery under-spend was used to help with the cardiology over-spend. I refer to the evidence of Rachel Ferris on Day 27, 10th June 1999, beginning at Page 25, para 0062, line 7. So it was not quite as simple as saying that cardiac surgery had total control of its own resources.

2.PARA 17. MISS LORNA WILTSHIRE.

Fiona Thomas says that in 1990-1991 Lorna Wiltshire and I had a difficult working relationship. I think that she must be mistaken here. I have known Lorna Wiltshire as a colleague for many years and have always held her in the highest respect. I cannot recall there being any time when I thought differently.

3.PARA 27. CANCELLATION OF OPERATIONS.

Whenever there was a threat or possibility of having to cancel an operation I considered that it was incumbent on all the parties concerned to try to find a solution. That included both surgeons and nurses.

4.PARA 34. MR DHASMANA AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CARDIAC SURGICAL BOARD.

I cannot recall any occasion when I took over a meeting chaired by Mr Dhasmana. I may have tried to resolve some disagreements.

5.PARA 36. WARD ROUNDS.

Ward rounds were occasions for the whole team to work together. It was an opportunity for colleagues each to make their contribution to the care of the patients. I am genuinely sorry to hear that Sister Thomas felt "subservient" which is the opposite of what I would have intended. In general sisters and nurses made important contributions to ward rounds.