

U B H T
TEACHING CARE

The United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust

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SMW/JE/Cmartin

12th October 1999

Ms Charlotte Martin
Solicitor to the
Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry
2-10 Temple Way
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BS2 0BY

RECEIVED
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Dear Ms Martin

I enclose my comments on paragraph 44 of Kathy Orchard's statement to the inquiry. I have not repeated the introductory paragraphs explaining my position at the Infirmary which accompanied my witness statements for issue M&N but I can answer the reference to a "National Authority". I was Secretary/Honorary Treasurer to the Intensive Care Society (ICS) in 1981 to 1984 and subsequently Chairman 1984 to 1986. I was also secretary to the European Intensive Care Society in 1990.

During my period as Officer Bearer to the ICS a Standard Document was produced which was revised in 1997. This has been available to the inquiry. Within it are the recommended standards for space, services, monitoring equipment, nursing and other healthcare professionals which are considered appropriate for critically ill patients in the UK.

In 1992 to 1994 I was Chairman of the Royal College of Anaesthetists Quality of Practice Committee which prepared the Colleges guidance to purchasers including a section on requirements for intensive therapy. This has since been updated in 1999.

I also represented the Royal College of Anaesthetists on a working party convened by the Department of Health to consider admission and discharge criteria to and from Intensive Care and High Dependency Units. This report was published in 1996.

Kathy Orchard was correct that the Cardiac Post Surgical Unit was run as a separate entity from the General (mixed medical and surgical) ITU. The Cardiac ICU had medical input from both surgeons and cardiac anaesthetists.

Yours sincerely



Dr S M Willatts
Consultant Anaesthetist in Charge of ITU

