

SBS

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TEACHING CARE

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HRR/yq

Please ring direct line number: XXXXXXXXXX

31st January 1996

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. S. Bolsin
Consultant Anaesthetist
Bristol Royal Infirmary

Dear Steve

Thank you for coming to see Ian Stone and myself at 9.00 am today. I had particularly wanted to offer you the courtesy of a personal briefing on the Trust's new report on Paediatric Cardiac Surgery in Bristol 1990 - 1995. I described the contents of the report to you and indicated that I had asked that a copy be made available to you at 10.30 am, the time of the Trust's press conference. Whilst wishing to see the report before you commented, you said that you felt it was appropriate that the Trust was making a public statement at this time. I said that I thought it was right that the Trust 'set the record straight' before your departure to Australia.

We then turned to your departure. I confirmed that I had taken advice and that it would be in order for the Trust to make an ex-gratia payment to you if it felt that to be appropriate. I would consider the matter further, together with your request for a letter from the Trust regarding your role (which I was happy to do), nearer the time of your departure, which you now estimated as February 25th or a week later. We agreed that you would confirm your outstanding leave allowance with Personnel, and Ian confirmed that he could quickly arrange for any necessary paperwork to be processed once we knew your leaving date.

We then returned to the Trust's public report. You told me that you would reserve your right to comment to the media personally, but felt that you would not seek publicity. In response to my questions, you said that you were not contributing to any T.V. programmes related to paediatric cardiac surgery, nor had you currently any plans to do so. I welcomed this, and reiterated my previous view that further publicity would be of no value to patients, staff or the Trust, particularly now that the Trust had put all available information before the public. I added that should the question of your role in recent years be raised, I would not hesitate to draw attention to your efforts in raising concerns in the interests of better patient care.

We agreed to meet again once your date of departure was known.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Hugh Ross
Chief Executive

cc Mr I. R. Stone

