

A I do not think this report would have been published then because the report covers the period 1989/90 and the letter was written in 1990, so I do not think all of that data would have been available.

Q What was it that you had in mind when you wrote about the "unfortunate position of ... mortality for open heart surgery on patients under one year of age" at the end of July or early August 1990?

A I had the concerns that were being expressed within the unit at the meetings that were taking place on an irregular ad hoc basis and I also had my own data from my own logbooks which indicated to me that there was a particular problem with this group of patients, so there was my own perception which I was backing up with objective evidence with other professionals in the unit.

Q Were you aware of the United Kingdom Cardiac Register at that time as being a document which showed two years before or thereabouts what the mortality rates might have been for open heart surgery?

A I do not think I particularly noted that, no, not at that time.

Q How were you in a position to consider the comparative position of Bristol and say that it was one of the highest in the country?

A I had had experience in the Brompton Hospital and I was in touch with friends and colleagues in other hospitals and I was alarmed at the mortality rate that I was seeing in the operations that were occurring in the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Q With who else were you in contact at that time to allow you to make such a stark comparison and such a strong statement?

A I think that, when I had been working at the Brompton Hospital, the mortality rate that Chris Lincoln had been claiming or had been saying was the way that the switch operation rate was at that stage was between 10 and 20 per cent and our rate was higher than that and this was certainly of concern to me.

Q You have mentioned VSD, you have mentioned switch; were any other operations a matter of concern to you as to their mortality at that time?

A Not specifically, no.

Q Did you receive a written reply from Dr Roylance to your letter?

A No.

Q Did you receive a response?