

**The Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry**  
**Day 2**

March 17, 1999

[1] nurses from the ITU came past. One of them asked in  
 [2] a pleasant voice how Mia was. I replied that she had  
 [3] died in the theatre and the look of shock and horror on  
 [4] their faces was plain to see. One of them blurted out  
 [5] in an angry voice "But she looked so well. We had  
 [6] babies who looked like skeletons and still survive".  
 [7] After saying that, they both turned round and left in  
 [8] what seemed to be a very angry fashion. Neither Leen  
 [9] nor I saw them again. After the encounter with the  
 [10] nurse, Helen Strachan took us to Mr Wisheart's office.  
 [11] We waited in the office for a little while and then  
 [12] Mr Wisheart came in. I have to say that whilst he  
 [13] looked extremely smart, he gave us the impression of  
 [14] being upset. He said the operation had been successful  
 [15] but that Mia's heart would not start independently after  
 [16] being taken off the bypass machine. He said that they  
 [17] had tried several times and her heart had started once  
 [18] but had stopped again after a short period of time. He  
 [19] continued by saying that her heart must have been too  
 [20] badly damaged to carry on. We were shocked and dazed at  
 [21] the news, but felt sympathy for Mr Wisheart, as he was  
 [22] obviously distressed. We both thanked him for trying to  
 [23] save Mia's life and left his office in a complete daze.  
 [24] I do not believe that the meeting lasted for more than  
 [25] 5 to 10 minutes."

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[1] Panorama programme last July. Until then, had you  
 [2] thought that Mr Wisheart had indeed tried his best?  
 [3] **A:** Yes, sir.  
 [4] **Q:** So it was your hearing or seeing that on TV that made  
 [5] you think rather differently about it?  
 [6] **A:** Because we were not contacted, we did not believe that  
 [7] it had anything to do with us. Once we found out it  
 [8] had -  
 [9] **Q:** I will come to that. But it was learning of that that  
 [10] made you reassess what you thought Mr Wisheart had done,  
 [11] was it?  
 [12] **A:** Yes, sir.  
 [13] **Q:** So until last July, you thought very much as you thought  
 [14] immediately afterwards: that he had done his very best?  
 [15] **A:** Yes, sir.  
 [16] **Q:** Because that was the impression he gave you?  
 [17] **A:** That is the impression that he gave us, yes, sir.  
 [18] **Q:** Did you in fact some time after you had recovered from  
 [19] the shock, if you ever do, did you write a letter to him  
 [20] specifically to thank him?  
 [21] **A:** Yes, we did, sir, yes.  
 [22] **Q:** And you meant it?  
 [23] **A:** And we meant it.  
 [24] **Q:** So although aspects of the way that the Infirmary had  
 [25] treated you you never liked, you did -

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[1] **Q:** I wonder if we can go split screen to a late stage in  
 [2] your statement, page 10/14. It is (vi), if we can  
 [3] enlarge that.  
 [4] If that is on your screen, you see that at a later  
 [5] stage you say that you considered that the post  
 [6] operation interaction was so poor that it exacerbated  
 [7] the distress, grief and anguish that you felt. Had it  
 [8] been handled differently with more respect for Mia and  
 [9] yourselves, you think you would be far less hurt today  
 [10] than you are. You say your memories of Bristol are all  
 [11] of pain. You remember little that does not cause you  
 [12] distress.  
 [13] At the time that Mr Wisheart came to talk to you,  
 [14] you must still have been shocked?  
 [15] **A:** Yes, sir.  
 [16] **Q:** But you thanked him for trying to save Mia's life?  
 [17] **A:** Yes, we did. We felt we knew that he tried his best and  
 [18] he was obviously distressed. I do not know why, in that  
 [19] situation, at that time, we felt almost more concerned  
 [20] with other people's stress than our own, the lady in the  
 [21] ward and Dr Wisheart. Our hearts went out to them. In  
 [22] all truthfulness, we did thank him for trying to save  
 [23] her life.  
 [24] **Q:** You have told us already you did not know of what was  
 [25] happening at the General Medical Council until the

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[1] **A:** We had no complaints against Dr Wisheart at that time  
 [2] and the treatment that we complained about later would  
 [3] not refer to the meeting we had with Mr Wisheart in that  
 [4] office; it was conducted sensitively and professionally.  
 [5] **Q:** I am looking ahead in your evidence. By all means, if  
 [6] you would rather wait until we get there, but I think  
 [7] your complaint about Mr Wisheart we will see: that he  
 [8] did not quote you the right risks?  
 [9] **A:** Basically, yes, sir, in the light of further expositions  
 [10] as such.  
 [11] **Q:** And obviously that depends on this Inquiry finding out  
 [12] what the right risks actually were?  
 [13] **A:** Yes, it does, sir.  
 [14] **Q:** Can we go back to paragraph 19?  
 [15] **A:** "Helen Strachan was waiting outside and she then led us  
 [16] to a small box room which was full of all sorts of stuff  
 [17] and had a small settee. It was effectively a junk  
 [18] room. She asked us whether we would like to see Mia to  
 [19] say our goodbyes. I said no, but Leen said that she  
 [20] wanted to say goodbye. Helen explained that it would be  
 [21] good to see Mia and say goodbye, as it would help us to  
 [22] come to terms with her death. I therefore reluctantly  
 [23] agreed to see her. But Mia was brought in wearing  
 [24] a white baby-grow which was not hers. She was in  
 [25] a Moses basket. Leen was upset at the baby-grow because

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