

[1] later?

[2] **A:** Yes.

[3] **Q:** And you were obviously concerned to have it because as

[4] you understood it, if he did not have it, Joe would die?

[5] **A:** Yes.

[6] **Q:** Was there any discussion of other risks that might be

[7] attached to the surgery, such as, for instance, brain

[8] damage?

[9] **A:** Yes, yes.

[10] **Q:** What was explained to you about that, Miss Jordan?

[11] **A:** That it was a possibility that they may have explained

[12] it further, but I did not - I am not an ostrich, but

[13] I did not want to worry about things that might -

[14] I cope with things when things happen. I do not want to

[15] anticipate having to cope with things, so I possibly

[16] turned myself off.

[17] **Q:** Was there any discussion of the drugs that Joe might

[18] need after the surgery?

[19] **A:** Yes, yes.

[20] **Q:** What were you told about that, Miss Jordan?

[21] **A:** That he would need - I was explained everything, that

[22] when he had had surgery he would be given drugs to help

[23] him. That some of his heart basically would not have to

[24] work the rest of his body, he would have drugs to work

[25] the rest of his body until his heart was strong enough

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[1] to take over again.

[2] **Q:** Having had all these matters described to you, what were

[3] your feelings about the prospects of the operation and

[4] your feelings about Mr Dhasmana carrying it out?

[5] **A:** I can remember before we went in, we had the letter to

[6] say that Joe was scheduled to have heart surgery, and

[7] I can remember, I said to people, I was adamant

[8] Mr Dhasmana was to do it. I said "I hope they do not

[9] give me anyone else", because I had had such faith in

[10] his abilities in the past, I was quite adamant only

[11] Mr Dhasmana was going to do it. Obviously I was

[12] petrified for Joe going into surgery again.

[13] **Q:** You say you had great faith in Mr Dhasmana. Can you

[14] just tell me and this Inquiry on what you base that

[15] faith?

[16] **A:** Purely and simply because I was told there was no hope

[17] for him myself and he got to two years old. He would

[18] help me. I had such admiration, and felt such

[19] admiration and gratitude to him, for the two years he

[20] had so far, and I had a feeling he would see we were

[21] okay again.

[22] **Q:** Did you ever consider sending him anywhere other than

[23] Bristol?

[24] **A:** No.

[25] **Q:** Why not?

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[1] **A:** I did not want anyone else. Mr Dhasmana was the only

[2] person I wanted to continue our treatment.

[3] **Q:** So arrangements were made for surgery, and at some point

[4] Joe was taken into hospital for that surgery to be

[5] carried out?

[6] **A:** The day after his second birthday.

[7] **Q:** So where was he taken?

[8] **A:** To the BRI.

[9] **Q:** That was the first time he had been admitted to the BRI

[10] then; is that right?

[11] **A:** Yes.

[12] **Q:** What impression did you form of the ward there, compared

[13] to the Bristol Children's Hospital?

[14] **A:** When I first heard I was going to the BRI, I was

[15] slightly daunted in that we had always been to the

[16] Children's Hospital and I knew where I was, I knew where

[17] the sandwich machine was and I knew where I slept and

[18] I knew where the wards were, so I felt quite comfortable

[19] being there. They told me this was at the BRI and

[20] I felt slightly daunted. I do not know where I have to

[21] go and all that. But I had a letter before with

[22] a contact name and number of someone I could ring, so

[23] I rang up a few days before and introduced myself and

[24] said I was coming up. She expected me, and she

[25] reassured me about the hospital and when we got there,

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[1] I felt a lot happier, having had the contact before.

[2] **Q:** Contact with whom? Who was showing you around or

[3] assisting you there?

[4] **A:** A cardiac liaison, I do not know if they call her

[5] a sister, officer or nurse, Helen Stratton.

[6] **Q:** What was her role?

[7] **A:** She was basically a go-between, between medical staff

[8] and parents, so if there is anything you did not know or

[9] did not understand, you could ask her and if she did not

[10] know or could understand, she would find out for you.

[11] **Q:** Was that helpful?

[12] **A:** Absolutely wonderful.

[13] **Q:** How good were the medical staff in general in dealing

[14] with your feelings, your concerns about Joe's operation?

[15] **A:** They were marvellous. They were really marvellous.

[16] They were so thoughtful, and as I say, they thought of

[17] me equally as much as they did Joe and they looked after

[18] me.

[19] **Q:** If we could have a look, please, at medical record

[20] 1679/466, if we could just scroll up three or four

[21] lines, this is a note made on 20th January, I think, by

[22] one of the nursing staff, very shortly after Joe had

[23] been admitted and it is a note of a record with you and

[24] your partner. It is rather difficult to read, but if

[25] you look at the faint writing just about six lines down,

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