

VISIT OF CARDIAC SERVICES DIRECTORATE OF THE UNITED
BRISTOL HEALTH CARE NHS TRUST. Friday, 10 February 1995

REMIT OF THE VISIT

To advise the Trust on the best action to take following recent recommendations received by the Department of Health to stop complex neonatal and infant open-heart surgery.

To make recommendations on the future of the paediatric cardiac services in the Trust.

PROGRAMME OF THE VISIT

Following a welcome meeting by the Chief Executive, Dr Roylance, who briefly outlined the problem, we met first the two paediatric cardiac surgeons, Mr Dhasmana and Mr Wisheart, who were then joined by two of the paediatric cardiologists, Dr Martin and Dr Hayes. We then met Dr Bolsin, consultant anaesthetist, Dr Monk, clinical director of anaesthesia, Sister Thomas, clinical nurse manager, and Professor Angelini, Professor of department of cardiac surgery. After lunch we met Dr Hughes, clinical director, and Mr Barrington, general manager, of the Bristol Children's Hospital, and then we met Dr Brynn, consultant anaesthetist. The visit was closed by a general meeting that attempted to put forward a satisfactory proposal for the immediate future.

CURRENT PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SERVICES

Paediatric cardiac services are currently provided on the two sites, the Bristol Children's Hospital and the Royal Infirmary. The paediatric cardiology services are in the Children's Hospital where closed-heart surgery is performed. Open-heart surgery is carried out at the Royal Infirmary. The operations are done by two surgeons, Mr Wisheart and Mr Dhasmana. The latter seems to have taken over the greater bulk of the paediatric practice. Anaesthesia is provided by three anaesthetists working on both sites. The postoperative care in the Children's Hospital is done by the surgeons, supported by paediatricians, cardiologists and anaesthetists. The junior staff on site is a paediatric SHO. At the Royal Infirmary the postoperative management is dealt with by the cardiac surgical team (adult) and the anaesthetic team. The person on site on a 24-hour basis is a surgical SHO. During the daytime there are currently two or three anaesthetic sessions which are dedicated to postoperative care. The paediatric cardiologists help with the postoperative management of the children at the Royal Infirmary. The overall postoperative management at the Royal Infirmary appears to be