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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Sir Terence English,
Royal College of Surgeons,
Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London,
WC2A 3PN

Dear Sir
Paediatric Cardiac Surgery in Bristol

Sometime last autumn, I made one or two efforts to get to see you in order to discuss the delicate and serious problem of mortality and morbidity following paediatric cardiac surgery in Bristol. I have no vested interest in this and the problem is outside my immediate sphere of influence but great anxieties were being expressed by some of my colleagues at the Royal Infirmary. In the event, I never made contact with you and the matter passed from the forefront of my mind.

Matters have come to a head once again and the enclosed piece from Private Eye, whilst possibly having some inaccuracies, quotes some statistics which have been confirmed elsewhere. One of the newer consultant cardiac anaesthetists feels that the mortality rate is too distressing to be tolerated and is job-hunting elsewhere.

Whether the "Eye" is correct in saying that the matter has already been drawn to the attention of the College and the NHSME, I do not know. There is, however, a widespread feeling that the situation is well-recognised but being ignored - possibly because no-one knows how to tackle it.

I am sorry to bother you with this essentially local problem but would be grateful for your advice as to how the matter can be addressed.

Kindest regards,

John Zorab

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