

BRISTOL AND WESTON  
HEALTH AUTHORITYBRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY  
Bristol BS2 8HW

Telephone Bristol (0272) 230000 Ext.

Dr Ref:

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SB/BB

25th July, 1990.

Dr. J. Roylance,  
District General Manager,  
Bristol & Weston Health Authority,  
MANULIFE HOUSE.

Dear Dr. Roylance,

As a consultant cardiac anaesthetist at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, I read with particular interest the Appendix to the Application for Trust Status on cardiac surgery.

I should like to point out two false statements in Appendix 2.1 under the heading, "Research Interests/Expertise". One of these is "The maintenance and protection of cerebral function during open heart surgery". As a consultant with a specific interest in this subject, having undertaken 18 months research at the Brompton Hospital, I have applied on numerous occasions for equipment to more adequately maintain and protect cerebral function during routine open heart surgery. On each occasion, funding has not been identified by the management side for this equipment to improve the service to patients. As a result, we are unable to undertake any research on this subject, and the statement must be seen, at worst, as untrue, and, at best, as misleading.

Under the same section "Investigations into blood loss and the financial consequence of saving blood and blood products"; this statement is also misleading and I know of no research or expertise which is being directed at the financial consequences of saving blood and blood products in this unit. I expect such research would confirm the impression that this unit is one of the highest blood product and blood users in the country.

Finally, as a paediatric cardiac anaesthetist, I would have thought the management directive to improving quality of patient care should have attempted to address the unfortunate position of the South West Regional Cardiac Centres' mortality for open heart surgery on patients under one year of age. This, as you may not know, is one of the highest in the country, and the problem should be addressed.

I look forward to your reply which I hope will help to persuade me of the benefits of Trust status for the cardiac unit.

I shall, of course, be sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Mortimer.

Yours sincerely,

Steven N. Bolsin FCAnaes.