

The Children's Hospital

Ladywood Middleway Ladywood Birmingham B16 8ET
021-454 4851 Ext:

Please reply to:
Our Ref BS/LJP

Your ref:

Our ref:

16 March 1990

Dear James

RE: SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF UK PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC SURGICAL GROUP

You will recall that you previously wrote to me apologising for your absence on the occasion of our meeting last weekend. You will be pleased to know that the meeting was most successful and the discussion lively.

I write to you because I took the opportunity to publicise the comments enclosed in your letter to me of 4 January 1990 and you will be pleased to know that your comments received general support and, in particular, this seems to be a measure of agreement that we should move towards some more generalised system of audit. Several units are already investigating the possibility of unifying data collection by use of either the Dutch heart association or the Birmingham computer data basis and I understand that the British Paediatric Cardiology Group computer advisors have already been recently looking into this matter. It seems to me personally that there is need for a representative from each unit currently undertaking any paediatric surgery to meet on a regular basis and that all of us must ultimately agree to make our results available in a totally honest way. I suspect that the meeting we held last weekend represents a start along that path but that it will take some time to persuade everybody to participate in the exercise.

I do not as yet know who will be invited to chair the next meeting of the surgical group but, in the meantime, I am thinking of contacting each unit currently practising paediatric cardiac surgery of any type with a view to starting along the line of developing a proper audit for all aspects of our work and I would be grateful of your support if you perceive this to be a useful and fruitful development. Personally, I do not think it matters who implements this move but I feel that we have to start somewhere.

I hope that you had a good holiday and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely


B SETHIA
CONSULTANT CARDIAC SURGEON

Mr James D Wisheart
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Bristol Royal Infirmary
Bristol
BS2 8HW

Central Birmingham Health Authority