



Your reference

Our reference

A:JA767.93

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Eileen House
80-94 Newington Causeway
London SE1 6YX

Telephone No 01-972-2000

Dr Steve Bolsin
Consultant Anaesthetist
Bristol Royal Infirmary
Directorate of Anaesthesia
BRISTOL BS2 8HW

13 December 1993

Dear Steve

You spoke to me in confidence last Thursday. By complete coincidence John Farndon spoke of the same matter to me on Friday. I did not mention you. This letter includes what I expect you would receive, were you to write to the Chief Medical Officer.

I enclose a copy of the Department of Health extant guidance, which may apply. I can of course make no judgement - I merely wonder if this is a useful mechanism to help an individual come to terms with a problem.

I don't think anything has been put out since the reforms - so the role of the (purchaser) DEA isn't clear, in terms of setting up a professional panel or even being aware of the specific problem. I suspect a clinician, if (s)he chose, could query the status of a panel if not set up by the procedure in HC(82)13. Your district may already have a panel in existence, of course - many don't.

The CMO's committee, that we discussed, should address these sorts of issues, but we don't know when it will report. The likely mechanism after that would be a submission to Secretary of State and, following her agreement, if forthcoming, production and circulation of guidance to the NHS, which may need to be consulted on and agreed with the JCC. It can be a quite protracted procedure.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

DR JANE ASHWELL
Senior Medical Officer
Health Care (Medical) 1