

9. There was general agreement that the external experts had done a remarkably efficient job in the short time available to them. The Trust, while accepting the report's recommendations, felt that some sections could have been better worded and the conclusions to be drawn were open to interpretation. There was also some disappointment that more detailed analysis had not been performed on the data but it was acknowledged that such analyses would have taken much longer. Mr Nix said that, because of the wording of parts of the report, wider circulation within the Trust was not desirable. ~~The Trust~~ would just have to cope if there was a demand for the report to be made available.

10. The meeting moved on to consider what paediatric open heart surgery should be carried out pending the arrival of the newly appointed surgeon. Mr McKinlay was clear that the Trust board would require a specific policy on future paediatric surgical procedures and audit for the period up to the arrival of the new consultant and then thereafter. He said the experts' report was still being considered by UBHT clinicians but believed that, following further meetings, agreement on policy should be reached during week commencing 13 March. It was agreed that until then the definition set out in Dr Roylance's letter to Dr Doyle dated 26 January "the Trust has decided not to carry out complex neonatal or infant open heart surgery until there has been resolution of the conflicting professional advice" would hold. Policies on post operative care and audit would also be agreed.

11. Ms Fritchie brought the meeting to a close and congratulated all those present on the constructive approach shown by all present.