

4. THE EXISTING SERVICE4.1 The Bristol Unit since the Mather Report (1981)

At its meeting on 12th September, 1983, the Authority received a report on agreed funding, programming and staffing arrangements to that date and noted "that the proposal to increase the total number of open heart surgery cases by 100 per annum (from 275 to 375) was not specifically related to the County of Avon but could be spread throughout the Region".

The agreed scheme to enlarge the cardiac surgery facilities (Ward 5) on Level 6 of the BRI (Phase I Building) by 4 beds (2 ITU and 2 Low Dependency) commenced on 17th October, 1983, and was completed on programme on 2nd March, 1984, at a total Capital Cost of £268,000, i.e. £24,000 less than the Budget Cost. It is anticipated that the enlarged facilities will be fully operational as from June, 1984, when the two additional Anaesthetists will be in post.

The make-up of the former, existing and proposed facilities is as follows:-

Type of Cardiac Surgery Bed at BRI	Number of Operations per annum		
	275 (1983)	375 (1984)	600 (Future)
ITU	4	6	8
Children	3	3	6
High Dependency	4	4	8
Low Dependency	4	6	10
<b>Bed Totals</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>32</b>
No. of Operating Theatre Sessions per week	10*	12*	18*

\* plus emergencies

4.2 Revenue Funding Arrangements

As the proposed method of funding had the effect of increasing the contribution which the Bristol and Weston Health Authority would have to make, the RHA agreed on 11th July, 1983, that a non-recurring allocation would be made to the "host" District for three years from 1984/85 to cover costs. At the end of the three year period, the funding would be on the basis of actual use of the service by Districts and then the normal Regional Resource Allocation processes (RAWP) will apply.