

## **THE BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY INQUIRY**

*My name is Mandie Lavin. I am employed by the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting (UKCC), 23 Portland Place, London W1N 4JT, as Director of Professional Conduct. I have been in this post since 1996. My qualifications are RN, LLB Hons, Barrister-at-Law, MA. I am happy to attend the Inquiry to give oral evidence, if required.*

### **ISSUE A**

#### **Powers and Purpose of the Council**

##### ***1 The aims, date of establishment and legal foundations of the body***

1 The UKCC, together with the four National Boards (in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), regulates the education and practice of nurses, midwives and health visitors. The 1997 Act is a consolidation of the 1979 Act which established these bodies, and the 1992 Act which reformed their powers and composition.

2 The role of these statutory bodies is to define standards for the education, clinical practice, and professional conduct of nurses, midwives and health visitors; and to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of these standards. Broadly, the UKCC is responsible for standard setting and conduct procedures, including maintaining the register of professionals deemed fit to practice. The National Boards are responsible, within their respective countries, for oversight of the implementation

of education standards and other related functions. The 1979 Act brought together all the statutory bodies concerned with regulating the professions at both pre- and post-registration levels and rationalised the regulatory structures across the UK.

3 A review of the organisation and functioning of the five statutory bodies in 1989 led to the 1992 Act and changes in legislation - the UKCC became the directly elected body and the National Boards became smaller, executive bodies appointed by the respective Secretaries of State (and, for Northern Ireland, the Head of the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland). All professional conduct functions were transferred to the Central Council.

4 Nurses have been regulated under statutory professional self-regulation since 1919; and midwives since 1902. Until 1979, health visitors were regulated through their nursing qualification, with other arrangements made under a separate body for their education and training as health visitors.