

JULY 1989

INTERIM REPORT OF
THE WORKING PARTY ON NEONATAL AND INFANT SUPRA REGIONAL CARDIAC
SURGICAL UNITS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

Background:

In 1983, the DHSS acted on information provided by a Working Party of the BPA and the British Paediatric Cardiology Section (February 1979) and on the 2nd Report of a Joint Cardiology Committee of the RCP (London) and the RCS (England) published in the BHJ 1980; 43: 211-9. Nine centres in England were recognised and were offered "protected" funding as Supra Regional Centres for the practice of the Surgery of Congenital Heart Defects for neonates and infants (under one year of age). These Centres were Birmingham, Bristol, Brompton, G.O.S., Guy's, Leeds, Liverpool, Newcastle and Southampton.

In January 1988, the DHSS approached Sir Keith Ross (then President of the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland), enlisting the Societies help on 2 counts.

1. An affirmation of the DHSS's policy regarding infant and neonatal surgery, i.e. that of supra regional designation and "protected funding".
2. Asking the Society to carry out a survey, by