BCCA and Reconfiguration of Congenital Heart Services in England

July 2008

Dear Colleagues,

The issue of reconfiguration of Congenital Heart Services in the United Kingdom has been discussed extensively over the last 10 years. It appears that in the Department of Health, reconfiguration is viewed as desirable and probably inevitable. If this is the case then it is essential that the BCCA are involved in the consultation process. The aim of this letter is to solicit views from all members of the BCCA regarding the reconfiguration of Congenital Heart Services in England.

In recent years, the BCCA have followed the reconfiguration policy discussed in previous BCCA business meetings and endorsed by the Monro report (Paediatric and Congenital Cardiac Services Review Group 2002). In brief, this proposes a planned service reconfiguration and a move to a reduced number of appropriately funded and staffed Congenital Heart Centres in the United Kingdom. The PCCSG report in 2002 recommended a peer group review of the recommendations within 5 years. In June 2006, a meeting was hosted by Professors Roger Boyle and Sheila Shribman. This meeting, attended by representatives of all UK units, supported the policy of planned reconfiguration and the minutes concluded;

“.. we should aim for large centres of excellence with a minimum of five surgeons and eight cardiologists per centre. A transitional stage would be to have joint alliances of current centres.”

At the November 2007 BCCA Business meeting, it became clear that a number of BCCA members dissented from this policy. Moreover, it is apparent that the implications of the June 2006 meeting were not discussed widely outside of the immediate attendees.

The aim of this letter is for the BCCA Council to obtain a view from the BCCA membership on their views on service reconfiguration. The attached request for views from you will give the BCCA a mandate to speak with authority on behalf of BCCA members. Please use the accompanying form to record your specific views and concerns regarding the reconfiguration process.

With best wishes on behalf of the BCCA Council,

Mr WJ Brawn
President BCCA

Dr AG Stuart
Honorary Secretary BCCA

Please send responses by Monday 1st September 2008 to:

Mr Azeem Ahmad
Affiliates Coordinator
British Congenital Cardiac Association
9 Fitzroy Square
London W1T 5HW
**BCCA and Reconfiguration of Congenital Heart Services in England**

Please circle response

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<tr>
<th>In your view, do you think reconfiguration for congenital heart services in England is required?</th>
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If yes, how do you think this process should take place. If no, please give reasons.

Comments/suggestions (please continue on separate sheet if you need more space)

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Signature

Current Post

Unit or Base Hospital | Date

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Affiliates Coordinator  
British Congenital Cardiac Association  
9 Fitzroy Square  
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