

## Appendix 3

**From:** John Gibbs  
**Sent:** 28 March 2013 12:40  
**To:** Roger Boyle  
**cc:** Bruce Keogh; Steering Committee for CCAD  
**Subject:** SMRs for Paediatric Cardiac Surgery

Roger - I am truly appalled that this has happened in this way with no consultation with the congenital steering committee. As you well know, this is work in progress and we have not even got the data statistically analysed yet. It is not fair to the public or the centres for Nicor to leak provisional data which hasn't even reached the stages of p values or confidence limits.

We had, as you also know, carefully planned the process leading up to public release of centre specific SMRs, with the hard won support of the SCTS, the BCCA, our data contributors and of our parent support groups. It has to be in everyone's interest for national audit to be based on solid statistics and clinicians' trust that due process has been followed. I think the way this has been handled will destroy years of hard work by the congenital cardiac audit team to earn that trust.

The future work of the congenital CCAD steering committee and its research group will be impossible if data is to be leaked before it has been properly statistically analysed and signed off as sound. If our planned work on reintervention shows any sign of outliers prior to complete statistical analysis do you plan to engineer those centres to be immediately shut without warning too?

In the first instance, will you please allow Emmanouil to divert his attention urgently to calculating the confidence intervals for this data so that we can at least let Leeds know if they are at the green or the red line. If that cannot be done Nicor will need to find an NIGB acceptable way and funds to allow David Spiegelhalter to step in.

I sense a conflict of interest here. I cannot see that Nicor would release incompletely analysed data from SCTS or BCIS or any of the other national audits and I see no fair reason why that should be the case for congenital heart disease just because of the S&S process. It rings of politics rather than proper process.

John

John Gibbs