

DR GORDON SKINNER - LETTER OF SUPPORT

For The Attention of: Patricia Collins (Investigation Officer)  
The General Medical Council - Fitness to Practise Directorate  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St James Buildings, 79 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6FQ

11 April 2007

Dear Ms Collins

Ref: Dr. G R B Skinner MD (Hons) DSc, FRCPath, FRCOG

My sisters are both patients of the above named doctor and he has successfully treated them for hypothyroidism over recent years.

I am aware that he has been the subject of IOP hearings but I have to say that I cannot understand this, as he has shown himself to be a truly remarkable doctor. *If it were not for him both my sisters would by now be in a care home or could well have lost their lives as their condition was dreadful before being referred to Dr. Skinner.*

Whilst I can only speak with authority about my sisters and their return to health as a result of Dr Skinner's care (as I have seen this with my own eyes), I am aware that he has helped his other patients in much the same way. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Surely a doctor who has helped so many should not be called to appear before the GMC?

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

CC

[REDACTED]  
Dr. Mark Dudley [MPS]  
Ralph Shipway [Solicitor]

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17th April 2007.



Patricia Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
Fitness to Practise Directorate,  
General Medical Council,  
5th Floor,  
St. James Building,  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester.  
M1 6FQ

Dear Madam,

Dr. Gordon R.B. Skinner, MD(Hons), D.Sc., FRCPath, FRCOG  
Fitness to Practise Hearing - 2nd July 2007

I write to support Dr. Skinner at the above Hearing.

Having treated my wife successfully for the past  years, Dr. Skinner succeeded in improving her health where N.H.S. treatment failed.

Yours faithfully,



From:

To: Ms. P. Collins – GMC [Investigation Officer]  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

Letter of Support in respect of Dr Gordon Skinner

17<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Dear Ms. Collins

I feel that it is necessary to write this letter in respect of the above doctor as he has helped two of my sisters recover from severe hypothyroidism.

Dr. Skinner is not an endocrinologist but it is obvious that he is a very competent, caring and humane doctor who was prepared to listen to what my sisters had to say and to prescribe appropriate medication which has resulted in their return to good health. They are now being treated with Natural Dessicated Thyroid [porcine derived] which has proved to be the optimum treatment for them.

Dr. Skinner is a credit to the medical profession and the GMC really needs to pay attention to the massive amount of support that he has from his patients. It is disgraceful that this doctor, his patients and their families have had the worry of this business hanging over their heads for almost two years now. Dr. Skinner poses no risk whatsoever to his patients on the contrary his patients are recovering and the GMC is in danger of losing all credibility in this matter.

Yours sincerely

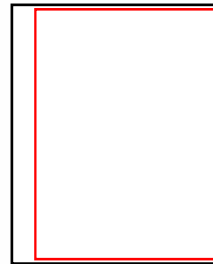
COPIES SENT TO Dr M. Dudley,  and R. Shipway

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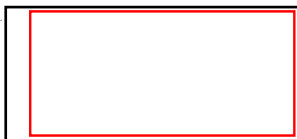
Dear Ms Collins,

I see that my thyroid doctor, Dr Skinner, has been asked yet again to an IOP hearing, this time at the GMC in Manchester.

The fact that Dr Skinner is being pursued in this way is extremely distressing to his thousands of grateful patients. Without his skill and care, many of us would no longer be here, or our quality of life would be grossly impaired.

Please give Dr Skinner the respect he deserves and leave him to do his valuable work in peace.

Yours faithfully,



copies to Dr. Mark Dudley



LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR DR G R B SKINNER

From: [redacted]  
[redacted]

To: Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer, Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6FQ

cc [redacted], Dr Mark Dudley, Ralph Shipway

Dear Ms Collins

I am writing this letter in support of Dr G R B Skinner MD(Hons) DSc FRCPath FRCOG. A few years ago, my nieces became extremely ill as a result of under treated hypothyroidism. [redacted]

[redacted] to name just a few of the dreadful symptoms experienced by them.

Luckily for my nieces, as a result of a referral from their GP, they were able to see Dr. Skinner and following consultation, my nieces were provided with a treatment plan which resulted in them being returned to good health. Anyone seeing my nieces now would be unable to comprehend the difference in them as a result of Dr Skinner's help. It is therefore beyond belief that such an excellent doctor should be having to defend his treatments when they work so well.

I would have no hesitation in recommending Dr. Skinner to anyone suffering from hypothyroidism even though he is not an endocrinologist, as he has proved beyond all doubt that he is a competent and caring practitioner who listens to his patients and my family cannot speak highly enough of him.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

20<sup>th</sup> April 2007

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Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ



15 April 2007

Dear Ms Collins,

Re: Dr F Skinner

In [redacted] I became very ill. For [redacted] years I regularly visited my G.P and was told my blood tests for thyroid disease were 'borderline'. [redacted] [redacted] Eventually I was put on Thyroxine, although this gave me a slight improvement I was still unable to return to work. I had been referred to an endocrinologist and had been told I was tired because I had a young child.

A friend read about Dr Skinner and I went to see him in [redacted] He found that I had [redacted] it was also clear that Thyroxine alone (T4) was not going to give me the improvement I was so desperate for.

I began taking the natural form of thyroxine 'Armour' (containing T4 + T3) the improvement was very quick and it is fair to say I have never looked back.

I feel it is scandalous that a man as caring and knowledgeable as Dr Skinner is being put through the ordeal of being investigated. Without him I and possibly thousands of other patients would either be dead or housebound thanks to conventional medicine.

I am forced to obtain my 'Armour Thyroid' tablets over the internet at a cost even though I am entitled to free prescriptions. This drug was the only drug of choice many years ago and from what I have read was very successful in keeping people alive. Why then are we allowing the pharmaceutical companies to dictate the drugs that General Practitioners are allowed to prescribe?

To conclude I sincerely hope that at the next hearing you and others call a stop to the persecution of Dr Skinner, and allow him to continue treating people and continue making them better. After all isn't that what Doctors are for?

Yours sincerely



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[Redacted]

Ms Patricia Collins – Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practice Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor St James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
MANCHESTER M1 6FQ

23 April 2007

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Dear Ms Collins,

Re: Dr Gordon Skinner – Fitness to Practice Hearing 02:07:07

After some contemplation, I decided that the Testimonial I submitted for the IOP Hearing 20:02:07 is a sufficiently accurate document to reflect my feelings in this matter. I have changed a few words here and there but essentially, after so long, one can only wonder that this matter continues as it does. I have resisted the temptation to submit copies of all the other letters I have written since 2005 but I do have great difficulty suppressing the anger I feel that Dr Skinner is before you.

**I have to ask myself these questions:**

*Are there vested interests causing this case to run and run? Who has initiated these complaints against Dr Skinner? How sound are they?*

*Is this an orchestrated campaign initiated within the profession? If so, why? And by whom? As one who has spent her entire professional life in the NHS I confess to feeling this case stinks.*

*Do General Practitioners and Consultant Endocrinologists fear that if Dr Skinner is found innocent of the spurious charges against him, they risk being accused of negligence to their patients?*

*Does the Government fear that claims for compensation for all the neglected Hypothyroidism/ME patients exposed by Dr Skinner's success, will reflect upon them? And not least the inability of a National Health Service to pay fiscal damages to thousands of affected patients?*

*Why is it OK to condemn and charge a man who restores thousands of poorly served patients back to health?*

*.....Yet allow those who fail their patients walk away without censure.....?*

*Why does the GMC condone this trial of an innocent man, who heals patients, and has thousands vouchsafing his skills?*

*What is going on here? It is important to look at the full picture.  
I ask you to give full weight to these questions. Nothing adds up in this case.*

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

P10

**TESTIMONIAL: DR GORDON R B SKINNER – FITNESS TO PRACTICE HEARING**  
**MANCHESTER 02:07:07**

I would defend Dr Skinner with my own life; such is my indebtedness to him for restoring me to health after eighteen years of neglect and indifference from NHS doctors.

I have spent much of my time since my recovery defending his right to practice, and attempting to bring to the notice of the GMC where the real fault lies. I have been greatly assisted in this matter by my MP, [redacted], and by his many colleagues in the House of Commons who have subscribed to his Early Day Motion, in recognising the dubious state in which thyroid medicine languishes in the NHS today, and its massive cost in human terms – AND – economically, consequent to the widespread *misdiagnosis* of *hypothyroidism*.

I, like thousands of patients in the UK, fell foul of the Reference Interval in the Thyroid Function Tests, which always showed me to be 'within normal limits.' It would appear that a slavish devotion to these blood tests meant that I was consistently denied treatment with Thyroxine. Blindness to my very obvious clinical signs and symptoms of *hypothyroidism* meant that I was the victim of benign indifference. [Please see attached sheet]. Support in this falsity came from the Endocrinologist to whom I was referred, who added insult to injury by diagnosing ME/CFS, 'with no further treatment available.' The implication that it is '*all in the mind*' is to live a nightmare.

My refusal to accept this erroneous diagnosis was assisted by my own professional status. [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] I come from a 'thyroid family' with four affected members and I myself had *hyperthyroidism* in my [redacted]

When things couldn't have been worse, it was my great good fortune to find Dr Skinner. I was referred by my GP. My relief and that of my husband was intense. Here was a completely professional physician of great integrity and experience who clearly had a total grasp of his subject. He listened at length, made a thorough examination, correctly interpreted my blood tests and thoughtfully evaluated the treatment regime I would need. His prediction that I would feel better quite quickly and be stable within [redacted] months was entirely accurate. Having never been examined in the past, you can imagine the impact Dr Skinner had on me.

SO. How did he bring my [redacted] years of misery and neglect to a conclusion? By some miracle cure? NO! It was all so simple and cost effective, with nothing more dramatic than an adequate dosage of Thyroxine. Under supervision, my regime was one of gradually increasing levels of Thyroxine. When stability was achieved and I was WELL, the dose was gradually reduced until a level at which I remained thus, was sustained. A very logical, harmless and efficacious system.

Dr Skinner should be lauded and honoured for his perspicacity and revered and emulated by the medical profession for his *SUCCESS! HE restores patients to health* where the great majority of doctors are both ignorant of their subject, and cowed and fearful of the influence of a powerful minority lobby of Endocrinologists and Psychiatrists. This combined body prefer to maintain their long held, outmoded status quo for their own gain.

The well being of the patient has no part in this monopoly.

I am also indebted to Dr Skinner for his transforming treatment of my daughter, [redacted], who had the misfortune to inherit my genes. [redacted]

[redacted]  
Eternally grateful patient of Dr Skinner/ 23 April 2007

PTO



**SIGNS & SYMPTOMS EXPERIENCED FOR 18 YEARS PRIOR TO DIAGNOSIS**

[Redacted area]

This hideous nightmare of hypothyroidism, [Redacted] was completely cured by Dr Skinner [Redacted] years later with the correct prescription of adequate doses of Thyroxine.

*IS IT REALLY REASONABLE FOR HUGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE TO SUFFER LIKE THIS – BECAUSE THEY DO – JUST BECAUSE DOCTORS ARE IGNORANT OF THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF HYPOTHYROIDISM? It is too easy for them to diagnose ME/CFS and then sit on their hands and do absolutely NOTHING, thus totally failing to adequately diagnose, treat and care for their patients.*

*IT IS DISGRACEFUL, IN THIS DAY AND AGE, THAT SUCH AN EASILY TREATABLE CONDITION IS IGNORED. IT IS A SHAMEFUL STATE OF NEGLECT WHICH IS CONDONED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AS A WHOLE BY THEIR FAILURE TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM AND DEAL WITH IT.*

.....Imagine if this was a member of your family. Would you not feel helpless in the face of such blatant indifference to their plight .....

[Redacted]  
23 April 2007

April 21st 2007.

Dear Ms. Collins,

From the moment my close friend  
[redacted] had a consultation  
with Dr. Skinner after [redacted] years  
of being told she had [redacted]. She  
is now able to enjoy life once more.  
After her extremely restricted life  
style it is a delight to see her  
feeling so much better than before  
and after has to be seen to be believed.  
She is so thankful that she was  
recommended to see Dr Skinner  
On a scale of 1-10 she has gone  
from being 2-9 amazing!

Yours most sincerely,

[redacted]

Re - Dr. Skinner.

23.04.07.

Dear Ms. Collins

I wish to reiterate what I have said in my previous letters.

Diagnosed with [ ] by my GP, for several years I became unable to lead a normal life - work had to be given up, as I could no longer do all that my job entailed. [ ]

income and a completely inactive life style (always having been very active) and many other problems. [ ]

The list is endless even for

have thyroid problems.

If any member of the G.T.C. was faced with someone close having these symptoms, and found that nothing helped except ignoring the blood test and treating the symptoms what <sup>would</sup> they do, I am in no doubt they would wait until they found a doctor who treats the symptoms, which is how we would have been diagnosed prior to blood tests, so medicine is no way as effective now as it was then..... this is progress?

I am sure the G.T.C. will be pleased to hear that after the thyroid medication I am now able to enjoy and be no longer a burden to friends   known to whom many daily tasks fell to.

I cannot say how amazed

I am that I am enjoying life,  
there was a time pre D. Skaner  
that I felt that I could only  
Watch others.

Yours Most Sincerely,





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25 April 2007

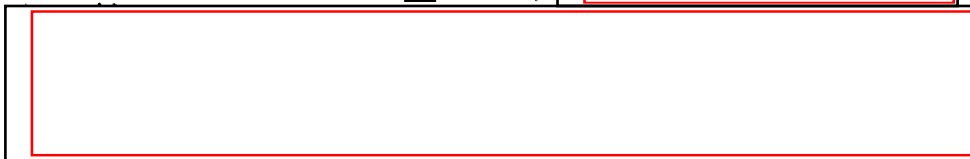
Ms Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer – Fitness to Practice Directorate  
General Medicine Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins

Dr Gordon Skinner – Fitness to Practice Hearing – 2 July 2007

I am a sister of [redacted], one of Dr Skinner's patients. I just wanted you to know that he transformed her life from one of misery, with an untreated, under-active thyroid (which had been diagnosed as [redacted] to complete normality.

In the long years of her illness (about [redacted] as I recall), [redacted]



One day she heard about Dr Skinner and went to see him. She was nearly in tears when she told me how marvellous he was. He spent a whole hour with her initially, examining her and listening to the long list of symptoms she had – told her she had an under active thyroid and estimated that she would be well on the way to normality within [redacted] months on his treatment regime. She was and now she feels completely normal again – [redacted]

I have to admit that I am shocked that someone can be ignored by doctors in the NHS if they don't get the right kind of blood test result. It was obvious to anyone that my sister was really ill but it was only Dr Skinner who recognised the fact and did something about it. He is a really hero to my sister and to her daughter, who was also helped by him.

So, the question I have to ask the GMC is this. Why persecute a man who makes his patients well again. None of the doctors' who saw my sister prior to Dr Skinner did not help her. Should not the GMC be looking at other doctors' method of diagnosing thyroid problems, outside of the regular blood testing?

Yours sincerely



[redacted]  
Ms Patricia Collins, Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester M1 6FQ

24 April 2007

Dear Ms Collins

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**Re: Dr Gordon Skinner – Fitness to Practise Hearing 2 July 07**

I am dictating this letter to you as my handwriting is a little difficult to read these days.

I was disturbed to hear that Dr Skinner was again being called before the GMC. [redacted]  
[redacted] I had always believed this form of disgrace was reserved for doctors who harmed their patients. In Dr Skinner's case, nothing could be further from the truth.

Both my daughter, [redacted] and granddaughter, [redacted] have been the fortunate recipients of his excellent care. Both had been very unwell for a very long time. Indeed, so apparent were the clinical signs and symptoms in my daughter that I was at a loss to understand why her frequent blood tests always declared her to be normal. Normal she was not.

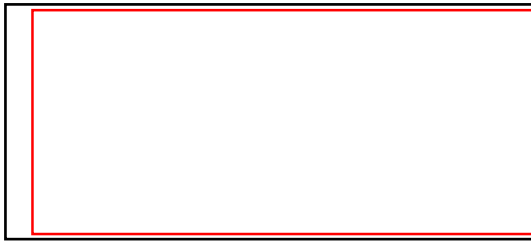
We are a 'thyroid' family and I could never understand why this was not taken into account. I had to watch for years and years as she struggled to get help from doctors in the NHS, eventually being diagnosed as [redacted] with no further treatment on offer. She was so clearly a case of hypothyroidism, with every sign and symptom in the book; I simply couldn't understand why doctors couldn't see it. Unfortunately it would appear that these days they rely upon a blood test which would frankly appear to be a very unreliable tool.

By great good fortune, in [redacted] my daughter heard about Dr Skinner and was referred to him. My son-in-law recounts his relief at the first consultation, that here was 'a proper doctor who took Sue's pulse and blood pressure, interpreted her blood tests correctly and listened to what she had to say during an extensive consultation.' He diagnosed hypothyroidism and prescribed a regime of Thyroxine medication which rapidly restored her to complete normality. I cannot tell you what relief we all felt. As a result of her recovery my daughter recognised that my granddaughter was seriously in need of treatment too. I am happy to report that she too is now transformed by Dr Skinner's treatment. Very tragically, my youngest daughter died before she could benefit from Dr Skinner's attention.

I completely support this good man, Dr Skinner. I do hope all of you at the GMC take note of what people like I have to say. We have seen what happens when appropriate treatment is withheld by NHS doctors. At the age of [redacted], I would say that this constitutes a scandal. Perhaps there is something wrong with the teaching of thyroid medicine these days.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]  
Mother & grandmother of patient of Dr Skinner



Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practice Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5th Floor  
St James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ.


copy



28<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Dear Sirs

Re Disciplinary Proceedings against Dr Gordon Skinner

I feel compelled to write to you in defense of Dr Gordon Skinner. I comment as follows:


I first consulted Dr Skinner some decade or so ago. I was extremely unwell at that time and had virtually reached a point where my health prevented me from living any kind of a quality life. My symptoms included: 

I had been seeing a GP for some time already and had provided numerous blood samples for laboratory analysis. All results were simply described as being "within the normal range" and no diagnosis was offered. I was rather made to feel as if I was making up the whole affair!

Dr Skinner impressed me from the moment I first met him. My initial consultation with him lasted for nearly one and a half hours and he listened carefully to everything that I said. He also observed and examined me with great care and patience.

Dr Skinner subsequently prescribed Armour Thyroid for me since he felt that I was hypothyroid to a significant degree. I took the medication for a number of weeks and returned regularly for follow up appointments in those first few months. Slowly but surely, my symptoms disappeared and my life reverted to its normal course. I felt better and better as I woke from this long hypothyroid induced sleep.



[Redacted]

Today, I am fit and healthy and happy once more. Both my personal and business lives flourish. I currently take Tertroxin instead of Armour but only for financial reasons. Thyroxin does not suit me and my new GP is happy to provide this as an alternative.

I am not given to dramatics, but it is quite evident to me that I owe a huge debt of gratitude to this special man and most excellent physician. I have not seen Dr Skinner for a number of years now as I have long since been discharged to the care of my GP but I could not fail to speak out in his defense when I heard of his recent troubles.

I know of other individuals who have been helped by Dr Skinner in much the same way and I beseech you not to deprive the public of such an asset as he.

If you wish to speak to me further on this subject, it would be my pleasure to assist in any way I can.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]  
Ralph Shipway, Radcliffes Le Brasseur, 5 Great College Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3SJ  
Dr Mark Dudley, MPS, 33 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0PS



26<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Dear Ms Collins,

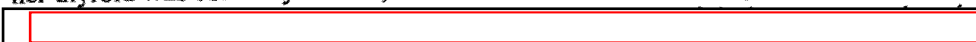
Re: Dr Gordon Skinner – Fitness to Practice Hearing 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007

My lifelong friend, [redacted], tells me that her consultant, Dr Skinner, is to appear before the GMC in July. I confess to some surprise. Over the many years when [redacted] was clearly very unwell, and sought help for what eventually turned out to be an under-active thyroid, the doctors in whose care she was could not help her.



This sorry state continued for many years. [redacted] I can vouch for the fact that her condition changed her radically, and imposed huge restrictions on her life.

You can imagine my delight when she came under the care of Dr Skinner. He transformed her back to her old self. He discounted the diagnosis of [redacted] that she had been given, and treated her for the thyroid difficulties she had had for so long. Once her thyroid was correctly treated, she returned to normal in a very short time, [redacted]



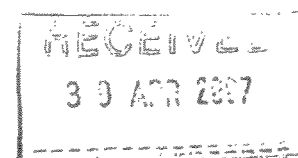
I have a very high opinion of this man for his care of my friend – it has been exemplary. Moreover, he has achieved the same success with [redacted]'s daughter, [redacted] [redacted]. What a very happy outcome after so many years of misery.

Yours faithfully,



cc [redacted]

Mr Ralph Shipway,  
10 Drake Road





GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL

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25 April 2007

Patricia Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
Fitness to Practise Directorate,  
General Medical Council,  
5th Floor,  
St James Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for Dr. Gordon Skinner who treated me as a patient in [redacted].

I was diagnosed with 'hypothyroidism' in [redacted] and prescribed thyroxin by an NHS endocrinologist. I continued to experience [redacted] to mention just a few of the ongoing symptoms. I was referred to several NHS consultants, (neurologists and endocrinologists) by my GP who could see I was unwell. None could find any reason for my ongoing symptoms.

Unable to carry on a normal life I consulted Dr. Skinner. He kindly helped me to find an alternative thyroid hormone product that helped alleviate the symptoms from which I was suffering.

He was very supportive and carried out his ministrations in a very professional manner. I had regular follow-up appointments with him to ensure the prescribed medication was correct for me. He was thorough in his assessment of my case and took time to listen. He carried out medical examinations and made detailed notes relating to my condition.

I am shocked to find he is going before the GMC regarding a 'Fitness to Practise Hearing'. I for one have a lot to thank this doctor for. He gave me an alternative drug to combat my illness that I would not have found within the NHS.

I think you should give this doctor your support as he appears to work tirelessly to help patients.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Cc:

[redacted]  
Ralph Shipway, RadcliffeLeBrasseur, 5 Great College Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3SJ  
Dr Mark Dudley, MPS, 33 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0PS

[REDACTED]

Ms P Collins - Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practice Directorate  
GMC  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor St James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
MANCHESTER M1 6FQ

25 April 2007

Dear Ms Collins

**Re: Dr Gordon Skinner: FTP Hearing 02.07.07**

I would like to use this Hearing to testify to the excellence of the treatment my mother, [REDACTED] received from Dr Skinner.

She tried for years and years to get treatment for an under-active thyroid but was prevented from getting it by a blood test which always indicated that her health was normal, when it most certainly wasn't. As a family we were mystified because she was clearly very unwell and struggling. No matter how hard she tried she could not get the help she needed. Eventually she was diagnosed as having [REDACTED] although she never believed this to be the case. The whole awful thing ruined her life for [REDACTED] years.

In [REDACTED] she heard about Dr Skinner and was referred to him. In a remarkably short time he restored her to normal again. It was like watching her coming back to life. All it took was a very common drug called Thyroxine. Apparently it replaces what she cannot make herself.

In our family we hold Dr Skinner in the highest esteem. He has also treated my sister, [REDACTED], with the same success. We cannot understand why it is so difficult for patients to get treatment in the NHS, at any level of seniority. My girlfriend was also diagnosed with [REDACTED] and was told nothing more could be done for her. She was devastated. Fortunately she was able to go to Dr Skinner and as soon as he had treated her correctly, she recovered. She too had had hypothyroidism all along but it took Dr Skinner to sort her out.

I can only ask why a man who has such success in treating patients is in danger of losing his livelihood? What about all the doctors who failed my family? I find the whole thing baffling.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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Testimony in support of Dr Gordon R B Skinner

26<sup>th</sup> April 2007



Ms. P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate, GMC  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6FQ

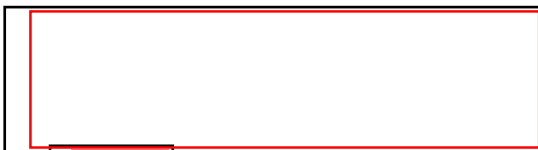
Dear Ms Collins

Both my cousins were diagnosed as hypothyroid during childhood. This meant that in order to remain well and develop normally they would require medication at the correct level on a daily basis for the rest of their lives. The excellent paediatrician who diagnosed their illness ensured that this happened and for a long time they had no problems.

Unfortunately, about ☐ years ago their medication was reduced and as a result they became seriously ill with devastating results to their health. Fortunately, they were referred to Dr Skinner who has made them well again, thanks to his treatments. For them to remain well, it is absolutely necessary for them to continue with the treatment regime he has set out for them. Their condition is so serious they cannot be without their medication for even a day before they start suffering ill effects.

It is for this reason that I am writing this letter to you, as I need for you to understand just how much Doctor Skinner has helped my cousins and that the consequences would be dire for them [and Dr. Skinner's other patients] should his treatments be unavailable to them. This is a situation which is unacceptable to all and so I am asking that the GMC drop this case altogether for the sake of my cousins and others similarly affected.

Yours sincerely



Cc: ☐ R SHIPWAY, DR M DUDLEY

General Medical Council	
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Original was Poor Quality	
- 4 MAY 2007	
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Council Member of the Governing Body of the GMC,  
General Medical Council (GMC),  
Regents Place, 350 Euston Road,  
London, NW1 3JN

7 May 2007

Dear Council Member

The General Medical Council (GMC) is a registered charity (Registered Charity No. 1089278) and on the GMC website under the section, 'Code of Conduct and Guidance on the register of interests for members of the GMC' and under the subheading 'Charity Trusteeship' it states the following:-

"Members have a responsibility as trustees to make sure that the GMC is acting within the law. Members who have specific concerns about the GMC's compliance with charity or other legislation should seek *further information from the Chief Executive at the earliest opportunity*" *and*  
"In the event that concerns remain, members should refer the matter to the Audit Committee which will report to the Council and, if appropriate, to the Charity Commission."

Therefore I wish to formally notify you of a number of concerns about the conduct of the GMC (some of which I have listed below) so that you can carry out your responsibility as a trustee and address these concerns in accordance with the above code of conduct and guidance.

Concerns about the conduct of the GMC in relation to Dr G R B Skinner

Ignoring testimonials and information/evidence in support of Dr G R B Skinner

Dr Skinner put my wife and sister-in-law on the path to recovery after they became severely ill for many years due to NHS treatment protocols which meant that their hypothyroidism was under treated. My wife and sister-in-law provided the GMC with testimonials and information in support of Dr Skinner in December 2006 and although they have asked for confirmation that their testimonials and information in support of Dr Skinner have been read by the GMC staff to whom copies were sent, they have still not received confirmation of this.

Their information included their testimonials in support of Dr Skinner and correspondence from their NHS endocrinologist (after discussion with his colleague who is a well known NHS endocrinologist) which demonstrated a consensus of opinion with Dr Skinner's treatment protocol and which enabled them to be provided with Dr Skinner's treatment protocol on the NHS. Surely this should have been treated as evidence in support of Dr Skinner and they should have been informed that it had been read by the GMC staff to whom, it had been sent? How can the GMC continue to question Dr Skinner's treatment protocol, when in the case of my wife and sister-in-law, it has received the backing of the NHS?

Failure to keep accurate records of the Interim Orders Panel (IOP) of Dr G R B Skinner

The GMC provided incorrect information in the record of the IOP for Dr Skinner on Wednesday 29 June 2005. The record states that 'on 23 February 2004' Dr P C\*\*\*\* of the V\*\*\*\*\* Surgery wrote to the GMC regarding his treatment of a patient with the initials HR. It goes on to say that '[She] has been fully registered with us on the NHS since 1.9.2004'. How was it possible for Dr P C\*\*\*\* to have written to the GMC on 23 February 2004 with knowledge that a patient has been fully registered with them since a date that had not yet occurred? If the IOP records contain this error, its overall accuracy is called into question. Alternatively, if the error was made by Dr C\*\*\*\* and then reproduced by the GMC, the accuracy of Dr C\*\*\*\*'s record keeping would be called into question. If this were the case, it would be ironic since part of Dr C\*\*\*\*'s complaint regards record keeping. Why has this error not been corrected after so many IOPs? Can the IOP panellists confirm that they have actually read the increasingly unwieldy bundles of documents being used at each IOP?



Wasteful use of time/financial resources at the Interim Orders Panel (IOP) of Dr G R B Skinner  
Why do numerous pages of IOP transcripts revolve around the GMC's dislike of the way the notes Dr Skinner provided had been paginated and their dislike of his use of Post-It notes? One IOP hearing that I attended revolved mainly around the issue of Dr Skinner using Post-It notes when paginating bundles of documents requested by the GMC. Much time and expense was wasted by the GMC over a clerical issue that could have been resolved with a phone call rather than an IOP hearing. After all the GMC hadn't provided sufficient guidance as to how they required the documentation formatted prior to its submission.

Failure to provide accurate information at the Interim Orders Panel (IOP) of Dr G R B Skinner  
In addition, at the IOPs for Dr Skinner, the GMC [and the barrister for the GMC] has used the word 'patients' instead of 'patient' thereby inferring that there have been many patient complaints when there has only ever been one complaint from one patient in Dr Skinner's professional life. At the last IOP, this exaggeration by the barrister for the GMC gave a misleadingly negative impression to the IOP members and required correction. Again this calls the accuracy of the proceedings into question. I would expect this error to be corrected and not to occur in future hearings.

Refusal to allow Dr Skinner to speak at the Interim Orders Panel (IOP)

The chairperson refused Dr Skinner's request to speak during the IOP hearing on 15 June 2006. Furthermore this was never recorded on the transcript for that date despite the fact that numerous witnesses [including myself] were present. In addition, my mother-in-law was informed by the GMC [in writing] that it was not normal practice for a doctor to be denied the opportunity to speak in his or her defence or ask questions at the appropriate stage during a hearing. This is clearly a contravention of Schedule 4, paragraph 3(b) of Medical Act 1983 (as amended to date), "securing that a person in relation to whom an order has been made shall, if he so requires, be entitled to be heard by the panel on each occasion on which they review the order". This also puts into question, the accuracy and validity of the GMC's IOP hearing transcripts as they would appear to have been censored.

Provision of inaccurate information to the High Court of Justice

The GMC has removed a number of cases from the impending Fitness to Practise Hearing for Dr Skinner but the GMC retained these cases in the papers of the Interim Orders Procedure and in the documents which proceeded to the High Court of Justice asking for an extension of these procedures. Again this calls the legality of the proceedings into question. Also what are the legal ramifications for providing inaccurate information to the High Court of Justice? Has the High Court of Justice been informed by the GMC that the GMC submitted inaccurate information as the GMC were notified of this error by Dr Skinner some time ago? Should the extension of the procedures granted by the High Court of Justices be withdrawn forthwith? I return your attention to the code of conduct and guidance mentioned previously, "Members have a responsibility as trustees to make sure that the GMC is acting within the law". Was the GMC acting unlawfully when it provided inaccurate information to the High Court of Justice? Is it usual for an organisation recently presented with the ISO 27001 security standard by the British Standards Institute (BSI) to make such an error? Please could you provide me with the name of the court to which inaccurate information was submitted by the GMC and any relevant case numbers.





Possibility of a Biased Education Committee Member at the GMC

The endocrinologist Professor Tony Weetman is listed on the GMC website as a co-opted member of the GMC on the Education Committee. However, in the journal 'Clinical Endocrinology' with the quizzical title of 'Whose Thyroid Hormone Replacement is it Anyway?' Professor Tony Weetman demonstrated that he has preconceived negative ideas about some of the groups of patients being helped by Dr Skinner by stating 'The majority of patients who demand thyroid hormone treatment for multiple symptoms, despite normal thyroid function tests, have functional somatoform disorders'. Therefore, due to concerns regarding his close links with the GMC and his lack of impartiality, please could you confirm that Professor Weetman will not have any involvement in the forthcoming FTP for Dr Skinner.

Permitting IOP and FTP procedures to be misused to stifle open scientific debate

In a GMC response to Bernard Jenkin MP [latest edition of Thyroid UK News], the GMC stated, 'It is fair to say that Dr Skinner's approach to practise strongly divides opinion and that his supporters are as vocal on his behalf as are his critics. The issues are very complex, relating as they do to strongly held views over different approaches to medical treatment.'

However, Dr Skinner has been attempting to resolve this issue by research and discussion. According to Diana Holmes in her book 'Tears Behind Closed Doors', a conference was arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> October 2000 by Dr Skinner to discuss diagnosis and treatment of clinically hypothyroid, but biochemically euthyroid patients with thyroid replacement therapy. Many endocrinologists were invited but every single one refused to attend.

Is it fair that instead of engaging Dr Skinner and other medical practitioners who share similar views in open scientific debate, the GMC is permitting critics to the treatment protocols used by Dr Skinner and others, to misuse IOP and FTP procedures to attempt to silence opposing views?

Contravention of Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998

The GMC has informed my wife [in writing] that the GMC is responsible for 'investigating and presenting the case against Dr Skinner at a Fitness to Practise Panel'. Surely the GMC should also consider positive evidence in favour of Dr Skinner and the numerous patient testimonials that have been sent in support of Dr Skinner. This statement indicates that Dr Skinner is not being treated fairly by the GMC. Do all the miscarriages of justice listed so far contravene Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998? Does the unreasonable length of time that this investigation has taken to date contravene Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998?

On the GMC website, under the heading 'Investigating Concerns' and the subheading 'At the end of the investigation – Case Examiners' it states the following;

"At the end of the investigation by the GMC of allegations against a doctor, the case will be considered by two senior GMC staff known as case examiners (one medical and one non-medical). They can:-

- Conclude the case with no further action;
- Issue a warning;
- Refer the case to a Fitness to Practise (FTP) panel;
- Agree undertakings on health and performance issues following a health or performance assessment."

In light of the enormous amount of patients providing support for Dr Skinner in person at the GMC and via letters to the GMC, it is incredulous that this case has not already been concluded

with no further action and this throws grave doubts on the impartiality of the GMC staff involved including the case examiners.

Contravention of Article 2 and Article 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998

I am concerned that the members of the Interim Orders Panel and the Fitness to Practise Panel are not listening to the numerous letters in support of Dr Skinner. If the GMC prevents Dr Skinner from providing the treatment that his patients need, the individuals working for the GMC would be responsible for the disability and risk of death that his patients would face. Would the GMC/ individuals concerned be legally liable in such a situation and would such a circumstance be interpreted as a potential contravention of Article 2 and Article 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998? Would the GMC staff concerned including the case examiners face potential liability under Article 2, 3 and 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998?

Since I have made the above concerns about the conduct of the GMC known to you, you [as an individual council member and trustee] are now obliged to take urgent action to address the points that I have raised. The case against Dr Skinner should be dropped by the GMC and Dr Skinner should be given an apology by the GMC. Dr Skinner is restoring his patients to health and saving lives. If the GMC takes any action against Dr Skinner at the impending FTP hearing, the GMC would be placing the health and lives of his patients at risk and this must not be allowed to happen.

I understand that the Charity Commission will look into complaints against charities "where there is harm, or the risk of harm" but I hope that the situation can be resolved quickly so that this stage does not become necessary. I look forward to your individual reply as a matter of urgency.

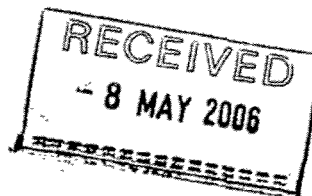
Yours faithfully



c.c. Dr G R B Skinner & [redacted]  
c.c. Mr R Shipway, RadcliffesLeBrasseur  
c.c. Dr M Dudley, Medical Protection Society  
c.c. Ms. Patricia Collins, Investigation Officer, GMC  
c.c. Ms. C Henesy, Assistant Registrar, GMC  
c.c. Ms A Thompson, Adjudication Manager, GMC  
c.c. Mr Andrew Wood, Assistant Registrar, GMC  
c.c. Mr A Elliott, IOP, GMC  
c.c. Ms Dewhurst, Performance Assessment Officer, GMC  
c.c. Mr P Swain, Head of Case Presentation, GMC  
c.c. Ms R Goldsach, Adjudication Section, GMC  
c.c. Ms C Floyd, Investigation Officer, FTP Directorate  
c.c. Ms J Oliver, Claimant Solicitor, GMC  
c.c. Ms T Sawtell, GMC Legal  
c.c. Mr Hiscock, Legal Assistant, GMC  
c.c. Mr S Geddes, Head of Adjudication Management, GMC  
c.c. The Charity Commission  
c.c. [redacted]  
c.c. Neil Hannah, Managing Director of the BSI  
c.c. Liberty, The Civil Liberties Trust  
c.c. [redacted]  
c.c. [redacted]  
c.c. [redacted]

25 April 2007

Patricia Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
Fitness to Practise Directorate,  
General Medical Council,  
5th Floor,  
St James Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for Dr. Gordon Skinner who treated me as a patient in [redacted].

I was diagnosed with 'hypothyroidism' in [redacted] and prescribed thyroxin by an NHS endocrinologist. I continued to experience [redacted]. I was referred to several NHS consultants, (neurologists and endocrinologists) by my GP who could see I was unwell. None could find any reason for my ongoing symptoms.

Unable to carry on a normal life I consulted Dr. Skinner. He kindly helped me to find an alternative thyroid hormone product that helped alleviate the symptoms from which I was suffering.

He was very supportive and carried out his ministrations in a very professional manner. I had regular follow-up appointments with him to ensure the prescribed medication was correct for me. He was thorough in his assessment of my case and took time to listen. He carried out medical examinations and made detailed notes relating to my condition.

I am shocked to find he is going before the GMC regarding a 'Fitness to Practise Hearing'. I for one have a lot to thank this doctor for. He gave me an alternative drug to combat my illness that I would not have found within the NHS.

I think you should give this doctor your support as he appears to work tirelessly to help patients.

Yours sincerely,



Cc: Ralph Shipway, RadcliffesLeBrasseur, 5 Great College Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3SJ  
Dr Mark Dudley, MPS, 33 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0PS  
Patricia Collins, Investigation Officer, Fitness to Practise Directorate, General Medical Council, 5th Floor, St James Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6FQ

Ms Patricia Collins, Investigations Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> floor, St James Buildings  
79 Oxford St  
Manchester M1 6FQ

08 05 2007

ref: Dr Gordon Skinner, Fitness to Practise Hearing

Dear Ms Collins,

I write as a patient and supporter of Dr Skinner - a summary of my history follows.

At age [ ] and apparently healthy, I was gradually experiencing more and more tiredness, accompanied by daytime sleepiness - disturbing as it affected driving. I attributed these changes to "getting older". The result of a full medical examination and blood tests showed nothing wrong and it was suggested that more vigorous cardiovascular exercise might help. I was not totally convinced.

I had been interested in hypothyroidism and felt this might be worth exploring. I came across Dr Skinner's text on the subject. My GP believed that a "normal" blood test result for thyroid function ruled out hypothyroidism. However, being a reasonable man, he read the text and agreed to my request for a referral, whilst himself remaining sceptical. Dr Skinner concluded that a diagnosis of mild hypothyroidism could account for my symptoms and we started a clinical trial beginning with a small dose of levo-thyroxine and increasing gradually. There was an immediate small, but detectable, change which improved with the incremental dose. Today, [ ] months later, I am now stabilised on [ ] mcg /day and feeling much better than I had for about [ ] years. [ ]

It can easily be understood that this is a very considerable relief to me. The prospect of terminal decline has at least been postponed for a while - who knows for how long - and I can continue to lead a useful life. I am grateful to both Dr Skinner and my GP, Dr [redacted], for making it possible.

From my personal experience I feel that Dr Skinner's work on thyroid should be supported and I add my voice to those of many other patients, most with much greater health problems than mine, urging the General Medical Council to act wisely. Reliance on laboratory results alone for the condition of hypothyroidism, although established practice, is not proven wisdom.

[redacted]

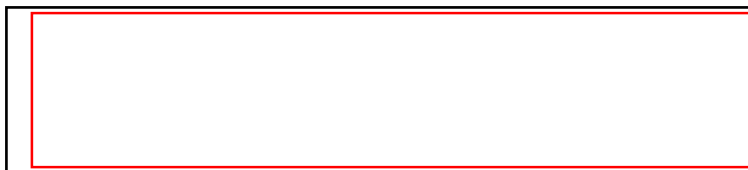
cc : Mr R R Shipway, RadcliffeLeBrasseur

[redacted] MP

Dr [redacted]

Dr G Skinner





7 May 2007

**Ms P Collins – Investigating Officer**  
Fitness to Practice Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor – St James Building  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester M1 6FQ

cc. **Dr Mark Dudley**  
Medical Protection Soc.  
**Mr Ralph Shipway**  
Radcliffe LeBrasseur

Dear Ms Collins

Once again I am writing to express my gratitude and indebtedness to Dr Skinner for allowing me to retrieve the life that I lost for around [redacted] years.

On puberty I began to experience a number of symptoms including [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] The onset was gradual but the culmination of severe [redacted] finally forced me to take my mother's advice and see Dr Skinner.

I had seen her transformation but was at such a low ebb in my life that I could hardly believe that anything could improve my physical and mental condition. My GP, Dr [redacted] agreed to refer me to Dr Skinner. Whilst he had not heard of Dr Skinner, he had worked in endocrinology earlier in his career.

Dr Skinner never promised miracles but he did say that he recognised in me a classic hypothyroid patient. He prescribed me thyroxine. My symptoms improved but not to the extent that either me or Dr Skinner was satisfied with. He prescribed me a course of Tertroxin which kicked started my system back into functioning. I no longer need to take Tertroxin but continue my regime of thyroxine.

My hypothyroidism is now well managed under the guidance of Dr Skinner and the continued support of my local practice. Without his recognition of what transpired to be overwhelmingly obvious symptoms, I would not be the well person that I am today. I had been treated for a range of 'conditions' that all stemmed to one key issue: my thyroid was underactive and probably had been for many, many years.

Dr Skinner is a professional in the truest sense of the word. His work is based on years of research – that of treating his patients – skill, and a true understanding the condition of hypothyroidism.

I look to you, the GMC, to recognise an excellent, caring and thorough doctor. I believe that you will do the right thing and support Dr Skinner for the sake of all thyroid sufferers.

Yours sincerely [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[REDACTED]

Ms P Collins – Investigating Officer  
Fitness to Practice Directorate  
General Medical Council,  
5th Floor – St James Buildings  
79 Oxford St.,  
MANCHESTER M1 6FQ

24 April 2007

Dear Ms Collins,

**Re: Dr Gordon Skinner – FTP – 02.07.07**

In this instance I write as the mother of [REDACTED] to express my gratitude for the treatment [REDACTED] received from Dr Skinner. - From puberty [REDACTED] underwent great changes in her character. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

It was easy to believe these were simply and 'age and stage' things and it took sometime for the penny to drop and for me to realise that my poor daughter had inherited my thyroid genes and was in need of help. We are a 'thyroid family' and it transpires [REDACTED] was yet one more victim. Her blood tests demonstrated considerable difficulties and her GP was happy to refer her to Dr Skinner.

Dr Skinner's thorough handling of her case was masterly as she was not convinced she needed this assistance. She was very much helped by her GP's enthusiasm for the regime Dr Skinner prescribed. He had been a Registrar in Endocrinology in his youth and expressed his admiration for Dr Skinner's carefully thought out plan.

She improved enormously on Thyroxine but failed to reach the standard of recovery I had achieved on that alone, and was eventually prescribed Tertroxin in addition by Dr Skinner ..... And this was totally life transforming. Suddenly we were reunited with the daughter we had once known, with all the difficulties she had had at the outset, completely under control. It was very moving and our gratitude to Dr Skinner is frankly fathomless.

I felt considerable guilt for having firstly handed on my genes to her, and secondly, for failing for so long to realise she needed help. It took all the skill and experience of the fine physician Dr Skinner is, to recognise that [REDACTED]'s problems were, in fact, thyroid based. Something I learnt at this stage was that puberty can be the trigger for genetically compromised children to begin their descent into a hypothyroid state. I don't think *that* is widely known in the medical fraternity! Thank God for Dr Skinner [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] and fellow hypothyroid patient of Dr Skinner's.



7 May 2007

**Ms P Collins – Investigating Officer**  
Fitness to Practice Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor – St James Building  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester M1 6FQ

cc. **Dr Mark Dudley**  
Medical Protection Soc.  
**Mr Ralph Shipway**  
Radcliffe LeBrasseur

Dear Ms Collins

I am writing on to explain my indebtedness to Dr Skinner for returning my mother to me.

For many, many years, my mother, [redacted] was unable to conduct her life in a normal manner until she was introduced to Dr Skinner by a friend of mine, a fellow hypothyroid patient. She was barely able to stay awake for any more than a couple of hours, she gained weight despite eating healthily and sensibly and was forever cold even on the hottest of days, to name but a few symptoms.

Under Dr Skinner's professional care, my mother was finally treated for the debilitating illness that is hypothyroidism. She and, indeed, the entire family, were at last able to understand her symptoms, and be provided with a treatment – thyroxine. Over the course of a year my mother, to put it quite simply, returned to me. My mother's condition is now under control and she has never looked back. This may never have happened had it not been for Dr Skinner's experience and care.

In my opinion, my mother was let down by almost all of the medical profession that she met and was given so many misdiagnoses which prolonged her suffering. She was often ridiculed by doctors and specialists who refused to believe that the current medical tests could be wrong or not show the true story.

Dr Skinner is a professional in the truest sense of the word. His work is based on years of research – that of treating his patients – skill, and a true understanding the condition of hypothyroidism.

I look to you, the GMC, to recognise an excellent, caring and thorough doctor. I believe that you will do the right thing and support Dr Skinner for the sake of all thyroid sufferers.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] is the daughter of [redacted] and a fellow hypothyroid patient of Dr Skinner

From Lorna Windass

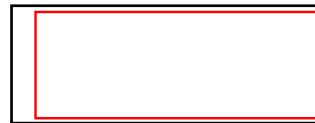
Dear Patricia Collins.

It was kind of you to acknowledge my letter to the G.M.C., in reference to Dr. Steinman.

My letter was sincerely for the attention of the G.M.C., not Dr. Steinman's solicitors and I hope it will have been given full attention by the G.M.C.

Yours faithfully.

Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor St James' Buildings  
79, Oxford Street  
Manchester M1 6FQ



9<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Dear Madam

In [redacted] my much loved daughter-in-law [redacted] became ill with the following symptoms. [redacted]

[redacted]

Her G.P. handed her on to the specialist at [redacted] hospital who did all the necessary blood tests and came up with the "good news" that there was nothing wrong with her. [redacted]

[redacted]

After a lot of heart ache, worry and prayer, my son found Dr. Skinner's information on the internet and managed to get her to Dr. Skinner for an appointment.

Dr. Skinner knew immediately what the problem was. She was diagnosed and treated by him and has been well ever since. She now does a demanding job - [redacted] and is back looking after her family. She does lots of [redacted] and is generally living a full and normal life.

I am totally convinced that, had she never been treated by the wonderful Dr. Skinner, she would be [redacted] as the specialist at [redacted] Hospital had no answers.

I cannot believe that there are questions surrounding Dr. Skinner as his diagnosis and treatment have demonstrated to us that [redacted] would not have got better without him.

Yours Faithfully

[redacted]

[redacted]

Copies to:



Ralph Shipway  
Radcliffes LeBrasseur  
5, Great College Street  
Westminster  
London  
SW1P 3SJ

Dr. Mark Dudley MPS  
35, Cavendish Square  
London  
W1G 0PS



Ms P. Collins,  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
GMC  
MANCHESTER M1 6FQ

Ref:2005/0701/01

5 May 2007

Dear Ms Collins

**Re: Dr Gordon Skinner**

Thank you for your letter dated 27 April which was waiting when we returned from holiday yesterday. It was kind of you to explain your role in the procedures for both FTP and IOP Hearings, which I fully understand. However, I confess, that although letters from his patients and their relatives are addressed to you on behalf of Dr Skinner, you give the impression that the contents of these letters are barely regarded since they are passed immediately to his defence representatives.

I found this disturbing since it is important that **YOU, as Investigating Officer on behalf of the GMC as a whole**, appreciate what is being said about Dr Skinner by his patients. Hitherto they had experienced serious ill health which was misdiagnosed, untreated and ignored by the NHS and **it was not until they were treated by Dr Skinner that they went on to make full recoveries**. This is the crux of the matter: the spurious charges levelled against him are not.

Over protracted IOP Hearings insufficient evidence of **any** weight has been brought to bear against him. I do hope it is within your power to absorb what is being said and act upon it in all fairness. So far, this has not been a quality associated with his Hearings, characterised by trivia, at which many of us have been present. They have been a complete travesty of justice.

I realise you cannot act as God and I understand how frustrating it must be for you to be deluged with paper by those of wishing to be heard! I would therefore be grateful if you would be kind enough to give me information as to **HOW 'getting heard by the GMC' might be achieved?** It would seem that we are all wasting each others time as things stand. I assure you, I have no desire whatsoever to antagonize, **but I do want the GMC to appreciate that without treatment by Dr Skinner, I and thousands of others would be condemned to the M.E. scrapheap.**

Naïve though this may sound, it is **that** which should be the subject of a GMC investigation, not a physician of impeccable professional standing and good character who succeeds in the safe and effective treatment of his patients. The failure to treat severe hypothyroidism in the NHS - choosing instead to label it M.E. - is simply, scandalous.

I enclose the questions I submitted to you in my letter of 23 April, which you have not addressed.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature area]

Patient of Dr Skinner

General Medical Council	
Original was a Photocopy	
Original was Poor Quality	
Date rec'd	
if scan	9 MAY 2007
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Page 1 of 2

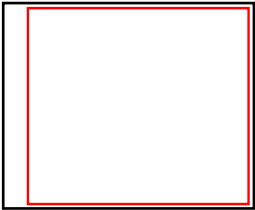
**QUESTIONS RAISED 23 APRIL 2007**

- Are there vested interests causing this case to run and run? Who has initiated these complaints against Dr Skinner? How *sound* are they?
- Is this an orchestrated campaign initiated within the profession? If so, why? And by whom? [REDACTED] I confess to feeling this case stinks.
- Do General Practitioners and Consultant Endocrinologists fear that if Dr Skinner is found innocent of the spurious charges against him, they risk being accused of negligence to their patients?
- Does the Government fear that claims for compensation for all the neglected Hypothyroidism/ME patients exposed by Dr Skinner's success, will reflect upon them? And *not least the inability of a National Health Service to pay fiscal damages to thousands of affected patients?*
- Why is it OK to condemn and charge a man who restores thousands of poorly served patients back to health?
- ..... Yet allow those who fail their patients to walk away without censure?
- Why does the GMC condone this trial of an innocent man, who heals patients, and has thousands vouchsafing his skills?
- What is going on here? It is important to look at the full picture.  
I ask you to give full weight to these questions. Nothing adds up in this case.

[REDACTED]  
Patient of Dr Skinner  
5 May 2007

2 of 2


[REDACTED]



Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5th Floor, St James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester M1 6FQ



9 May 2007


Dear Ms Collins,

Re: Dr Gordon Skinner, 

I am writing in support of Dr Skinner, whom I understand will be facing a "Fitness to practice" hearing in the near future.

It will be useful to preface my comments regarding Dr Skinner with some reference to my circumstances prior to my initial consultation with him.

Following several years of ill-health, I was diagnosed with hypothyroidism in about , confirmed with blood tests. Treatment with Thyroxine followed with limited success despite my blood levels returning to "normal" values. Following referral to a consultant, it was considered that I had a form of thyroxine resistance and I was placed on  mcg T3 daily, on which dose I improved for a time but this did not last.



In the absence of a strategy for continued management of my continuing ill-health, it seemed that I was to be left with a poor quality of life. This was an intolerable situation yet it appeared that there was no alternative.

Several years later, I heard of Dr Skinner and made an appointment to see him. I was required to bring with me a referral from my GP. At the initial consultation, I was given a thorough examination by Dr Skinner and diagnosed to be clinically hypothyroid despite thyroid function tests which indicated that I was "well-replaced" - in accord with the consultants whom I had seen previously.

Dr Skinner's treatment - with varying doses of T3 and T4 initially - was again in accord with previous assessments which I had received. In addition, after some time with no significant improvement, the further option of a natural thyroid extract was added. This proved successful in improving my condition, over time, with perseverance and with Dr Skinner's attention to the detail of my care.

During the time which I have been his patient, Dr Skinner has paid attention to my blood test results - which he requires on a regular basis - but not to the exclusion of all else. He has been

careful in his approach, thorough in his assessments, and has sought to do his best for me, his patient. His approach has led to successful results for myself, with an improvement in my health and quality of life.

All of these events must be seen in context; previous treatment of my condition had left me in a poor state indeed. Dr Skinner's approach was successful.

That Dr Skinner now faces a threat to his ability to continue to practise medicine is a source of great concern. It is not the least of it to point out that Dr Skinner has successfully treated those, like myself, who were otherwise left without the care and attention which they deserve. One should be called to account for one's errors, yes, but to be called to account for one's successes is unjust, not to say perverse.

On a personal level, I am of course concerned for myself. If Dr Skinner is unable to practise then I have nowhere to go. I would be returned to the condition I was in before I saw him.

It is not only Dr Skinner facing the hearing - it is people like me.

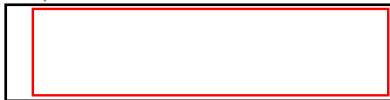
In closing, it is without doubt, and with appreciation, that I can state that Dr Skinner has been nothing less than attentive, thorough and cautious in his care. That his ability to practise has been called into question concerns me because I do not wish to lose a doctor who has helped me, I do not wish to return to the "appropriate" treatment which condemned me to continued poor health.

In considering the case against Dr Skinner, the testimony of people such as myself should not be ignored, as it is we who will be most affected by the outcome.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

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To: Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer, Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6FQ

8<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Dear Ms Collins  
Re: Dr G R B Skinner MD (Hons), DSc, FRCPath, FRCOG

I refer to your letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007, in response to mine dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2007 and note that you say such a late response was due to an oversight on your part.

I have to say that I was under the impression that as you were the investigation officer for this case that your role was concerned with fact finding and this would encompass taking note of the many hundreds of testimonials received already, in support of Dr. Skinner. However, if I am to understand your role correctly, it now seems that your only interest lies in taking on board anything negative and totally disregarding anything positive in respect of this excellent doctor.

I see this as unfair, unjust and unacceptable. Therefore for emphasis, I am listing my concerns here, as I am very unhappy about the way this case has been conducted to date and I want these comments to be placed on record and to form part of the paperwork relating to any forth-coming IOPs and the Fitness to Practice hearing to be held in July 2007.

1. Dr Skinner does not pose any risk to his patients or others as defined in the 'test' – on the contrary his treatments help his patients recover from hypothyroidism.
2. Dr Skinner should not have been brought before the GMC just because there is no consensus on the best course of treatment for hypothyroidism [confirmed by A P Weetman in his infamous article in the journal 'Clinical Endocrinology' in March 2006] where he states that "*Recent attempts to produce a comprehensive scientific review and guidelines for the diagnosis and management of subclinical thyroid disease<sup>(1)</sup> provoked a dissenting set of comments from members of the same organizations that had sponsored the original guidelines.<sup>(1b)</sup> In turn, this spawned an editorial wondering whether we could achieve a consensus about the consensus.<sup>(11)</sup>*" Therefore such issues are outside the remit of the GMC for the purposes of this case. Thus, any allegations relating to prescriptions, dosage and treatments should have no bearing on this issue since, endocrinologists themselves are in dispute. In addition, the large numbers of patients concerned are being made well by Dr. Skinner on a continuing basis.
3. The case against Dr. Skinner was initially presented by the GMC in the most muddled, confusing and haphazard way [that I have ever witnessed within my professional life] and thus was completely unfair to Dr. Skinner. One of the IOPs focused on post-its, pagination and photocopying and did nothing to move the case forward or address the issues raised – subsequent IOPs have shown very little improvement in the way that this case has been conducted and have served to prolong the process which now spans 3 years.
4. Continuous changing of panel members has meant that these unfortunate people have had to wade afresh through a couple of thousand of pieces of documentation at each hearing. Given the speed at which the determinations have been made – there is absolutely no way that all the contents present, including the hundreds of testimonials in support of Dr. Skinner could be looked at in depth and given proper consideration and weight in the time available.
5. The length of time this case has taken is unacceptable and has caused unnecessary worry and concern for Dr Skinner, his family and colleagues, his patients and their families. Could I ask why there has been such a delay in concluding this matter?



6. The GMC applied for an extension to the High Court which contained mis-representations relating to the number of patient complaints which actually turned out to be a patient complaint – the patient who it turned out (according to Mr Jenkins acting on behalf of Dr. Skinner) wanted her money back! There is no way that just one complaint of such a petty nature should warrant an IOP. Has the GMC since notified the High court that the information they received was erroneous and that a number of the cases had been removed and so should not have been present in the submission? Furthermore could you let me have the contact particulars and address of said High Court as I wish to contact them myself regarding this issue.
7. During the proceedings there have been several breaches of confidentiality by the GMC, which contravene the Data Protection Act 1998 – these are yet more examples of sloppy presentation and lack of professionalism.
8. Dr Skinner has been denied the opportunity to ask questions/speak in his own defence on at least two occasions during IOP hearings. This is a dreadful state of affairs as it means that there has been limited opportunity for him to refute the allegations concerned which in itself contravenes Schedule 4, Para 3(b) of the amended Medical Act 1983 and raises questions with regard to the suitability and competence of the chairpersons concerned. In addition, Dr Skinner was spoken to in a most discourteous and abrupt manner when he was denied the opportunity to speak on both occasions.
9. There have been a number of mistakes on the transcript. One concerns the date that a certain Dr. C. [first case to be presented] supposedly wrote to Dr. Skinner on a date which was some 6 months before the patient registered with Dr. C. Given that determinations are made with reference to paperwork [including copies of previous transcripts] then this information was totally misleading and confusing to the panels and so could have counted unfairly against Dr. Skinner.
10. One of the allegations concerns referrals. However, I know that in my daughters' case, Dr Skinner was adamant that a referral was required and I actually accompanied my daughters to our local GP surgery to request this.

The above is not an exhaustive list and I would like a more detailed response this time please, regarding all of the above comments. You may wonder why I am so adamant about this situation. Well it is due to the fact that the health and lives of my daughters are at risk if the GMC prevents Dr Skinner's treatment protocols from being used by Dr Skinner and others. I am not prepared to countenance my daughters' return to severe disability or worse and I wish for the treatment protocols which were carefully applied and strengthened over a substantial period of time by Dr. Skinner to continue indefinitely.

I am also in touch with a large number of Dr. Skinner's patients [redacted] who I know have written to you saying exactly the same thing as I, who would be similarly affected by withdrawal of Dr. Skinner's treatment protocols. Therefore, the amount of worry that these patients and my family have been caused by the GMC is unacceptable. Furthermore the continued persecution of doctors whose treatment methods are similar to those of Dr. Skinner is a disgrace!!

I repeat, I am of the opinion that this case must be dropped at once and that Dr. Skinner should receive a full public apology from the GMC, as the treatment of Dr. Skinner by the GMC and by implication all those who depend on him for their health and well-being has been absolutely shameful and through all of this, the GMC who purport to put the patient first, has shown not one iota of concern. I expect to receive your comments soon!!

Yours sincerely

[redacted signature box]

Cc

[redacted] (Dr Skinner)

Dr Mark Dudley (MPS)

Mr Ralph Shipway (RadcliffesLeBrasseur)

08/05/07

Patricia Collins, Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St James' Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester M1 6FQ

General Medical Council

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Dear Ms Collins,  
Re; Dr Gordon RB Skinner

I have sent several previous letters on this matter to the GMC and you are the first person to respond – it is good to find that there is someone at the GMC with some courtesy. So, thank you for your letter of 27<sup>th</sup> April. Also thank you for forwarding a copy of my letter to Dr Skinner's representatives.

However, your letter does not answer a single one of the questions I posed. I appreciate that there may be some points you will not be able to respond to, being sub-judice, but most of my questions were about the procedure and strategy that the GMC appears to be following in this case.

1. Why did the first report commissioned on Dr Skinner, lead to a postponement of his FTP hearing? We have heard (rightly or wrongly) that the GMC rejected the first report as not being damning enough – is that the case, or not?
2. How can commissioning Dr Wheatman, a known critic of Dr Skinner's practise, be seen as an impartial investigating?
3. How is Wheatman's report relevant to the actual complaint made against Dr Skinner?
4. Why do the Interim Hearings papers still refer to multiple complaints against Dr Skinner when, as I understand it, there is now only *one* complaint left standing?
5. Is the GMC trying to build some sort of case about Dr Skinner prescribing thyroid hormones to patients with euthyroid blood chemistry? If so, how is that related to the actual complaint being dealt with by this enquiry?
6. Several specialists like Wheatman say that what Skinner is doing is not good practise – but that is just their *opinion* – there are other doctors who do not agree with that view – are you also collecting evidence from *them*?
7. Will you be presenting to the FTP hearing evidence from us, his patients - our testimony to the fact that Dr Skinner's so-called controversial treatment has resulted in so many of us being made well?
8. Can you see how the GMC's actions give the strong impression that the GMC is *determined* to get rid of Dr Skinner, regardless of whether he is guilty of that one complaint or not? If that is *not* the case, why will no-one at the GMC say so? Why is this investigation so shrouded in mystery?

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature box]



8 May 2007

Ms P Collins, Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
MANCHESTER, M1 6GQ

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Dear Ms Collins

**Re: Dr Gordon Skinner – Fitness to Practice Hearing on 2 July 2007**

I am writing in support of Dr Skinner and would ask that he be allowed to continue to practice, in particular for hypothyroidism.

I have known Dr Skinner for many years, having been referred to him by my then GP. He started treating me for Hypothyroidism in about [redacted], prescribing Armour thyroid. I found Dr Skinner to be far more thorough than other doctors I'd previously consulted about my symptoms; he not only carried out full blood tests of every nature, but also took every one of my symptoms into consideration and would examine me in detail at the same time which is more than any other doctor ever did. As a result of my blood test results, he started me on Armour thyroid at a very low dose, slowly increasing it whilst monitoring me until the dose was right for me. Dr Skinner would regularly monitor my levels with blood tests and we would change dosage as was seen to be fit. I saw an enormous improvement in my symptoms.

He wrote to my doctors at the time, advising them of this treatment. He has also written to my newer GP last year advising him of same and I had a blood test via my GP to check my thyroid levels; my GP did not oppose this treatment nor did he oppose Dr Skinner prescribing it for me as Armour thyroid is not available on the NHS. I don't get on well with levothyroxine and Dr Skinner is the only doctor I know who prescribes Armour thyroid.

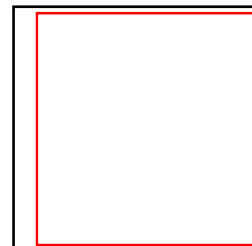
I suffer a number of different conditions, [redacted] and I have come across many doctors over the years that I have considered to be either incompetent or lacking in knowledge. Dr Skinner, in my opinion, is not of one of them and is one of the few doctors in whom I have full trust in his competence, experience and knowledge.

If Dr Skinner is not allowed to continue treating patients for thyroid conditions, I will not be able to continue the Armour treatment nor find a thyroid doctor who would care for me as well as Dr Skinner has done over the years.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Patricia Collins  
Investigations Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James Buildings  
79, Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ



14<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Ms Collins

Dear Madam,

Re: Fitness to Practise Hearing, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007. Dr. G.R.B. Skinner.

I write to give my unreserved support to the above doctor. Although I have only known him for a comparatively short time, he has changed the whole course of my life. Before our meeting on the [redacted] I was unable to look after myself or my family and I was on the point of losing my [redacted] business because I was so ill.

Doctor Skinner gave me the opportunity to talk about the symptoms and took a detailed history. He examined blood test results kindly supplied by my own General Practitioner. He took my temperature and pulse, examined hair and skin and a goitre which nobody had done before.

The treatment prescribed was gently incremental and has produced no side effects. I have been able to speak to the doctor whenever I have had any concerns.

The effect of the treatment for my family and I has been nothing short of miraculous. I have not felt so well since my teenage years (I am currently [redacted]). I have struggled for want of correct diagnosis and help for so many years. Doctor Skinner has been the only doctor who has been interested enough and able to pull together my disparate symptoms and make sense of them.

I owe him an enormous debt of gratitude and am dismayed by the current proceedings, I sincerely hope that the opinion of his patients will be given due weight by the tribunal.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

cc: HM The Queen, [redacted], Ralph Shipway, Dr Mark Dudley.



15.05.07

Dear Patricia Collins

I am writing in support of treatment given to me by Dr Skinner, as I understand there is a 'Fitness to Practice' Hearing on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. I am sure you have received many letters like mine, but may I remind you that each one is a personal story, and many tell of a life totally turned around.

To make this easier to read, I will be brief, and bullet point my life before I was treated by Dr Skinner, and my life after.

**Before: -**

- o Diagnosed with [ ] for [ ] years, and seen many specialists
- o Could no longer work, was often housebound or bed bound
- o Many symptoms, [ ]  
[ ] in other words, unable to function for everyday life.

I saw Dr Skinner in [ ] who ran more blood tests, which showed up a low T3 level. I was put on Armour Thyroid, as well as some Thyroxin, and gradually, we saw improvements to my health and stamina. It took a while to get the right levels of Armour and Thyroxin. My Dr was initially sceptical, but agreed to monitor me, and continue the medication set by Dr Skinner. After a few months, she was in no doubt of my improving health! The practice continues to check me once a year - [ ]

**My life now?**

- A healthy life – active, do anything

Dr Skinner is a specialist, who knows his job – and his job is to get people well again. His job is to give people like me their lives back.

- No one else in [ ] years of illness had tested my T3 levels
- No one else offered me any hope of ever getting better
- Thyroxin alone couldn't make me better – it has no T3 in it!
- No one else told me about Armour thyroid, and why it could improve my health

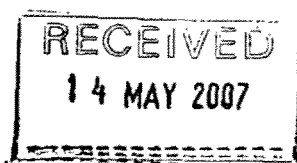
How can I NOT support Dr Skinner? I wouldn't be living the life I do without his help.  
**PLEASE LISTEN TO PEOPLE LIKE ME!**

Yours sincerely,

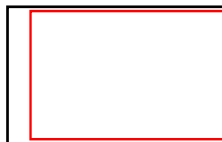
Copies to – R.Shipway, [ ], Dr M.Dudley



Supporting reference in favour of :-  
Dr Gordon R B Skinner MD (Hons) DSc, FRCPath, FRCOG



From:



Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer for the General Medical Council  
Fitness to Practise Directorate, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6FQ

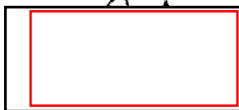
Dear Ms. Collins

I am the uncle of two of Dr Skinner's patients and I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Skinner as I find it incomprehensible that a doctor of his calibre has been called to the GMC.

All my family think highly of this doctor, as at the first and subsequent consultations, he took the trouble to listen to what my nieces had to say about their condition. They had both become seriously ill as a result of hypothyroidism and this doctor carried out a thorough clinical examination, asked about family history and referred to recent blood tests, before commencing treatment.

I can only say that he turned my nieces lives around. They were so seriously ill that they were unable to function and needed help from their family for the most basic of tasks. However, because of Dr. Skinner, they are now able to function at the highest of levels and our family will never be able to thank Dr. Skinner enough for this.

Yours sincerely



12<sup>th</sup> May 07

Copies to: Mr. Shipway /Dr. Dudley

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I am writing to say that I am the Mother-in-law of [redacted] who went to see Dr Skinner in [redacted].

[redacted], I have witnessed how unwell she has been for about [redacted] years. She has not been able to lead a normal life or in any way [redacted].

[redacted] after years of visiting her own G.P's it wasn't until a friend recommended her to visit Dr Skinner. (who had been cured by him) that [redacted] went to

[redacted] - is certainly improving, but has longer to go yet, before returning to full health.

I can only say as a family how very thankful we are that [redacted] has been able to visit Dr Skinner.

[redacted]

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9-5-07

Dear. Patricia Collins

I am writing in Support of Dr. Gordon Skinner, and wish to express how he has helped me after so many years of ill health and mis diagnosis from my local G.P. [redacted]

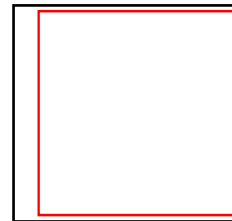
[redacted] nothing was done for me. This went on for more than [redacted] yrs [redacted]

[redacted] then a friend told me of Dr. Skinner how I managed to go to [redacted] & really

don't know, but with help of my husband & friends I did, & was told immediately that I do have a thyroid problem, this was before I had a more thorough Blood test, so I hope I am on the road to recovery, I know I will be on Throxine for life, but I know I will be able to do a whole lot more & feel better doing it. Thanks to Dr. Gordon Skinner

Yours Faithfully,

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Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5th Floor, St James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester M1 6FQ

14 May 2007

Dear Ms Collins,

**Re: Dr G R B Skinner, 22 Alcester Road, Birmingham - Fitness To Practice Hearing**

My interest in the above is that my mother,   
 is one of Dr Skinner's patients; she has previously written to you on this matter.

Aware of my mother's comments, I do not wish to be repetitive. However, I do wish to provide my assessment of my mother's care and treatment both prior to her first consultation with Dr Skinner and whilst under his care.   
 Over the years, I accompanied my mother as she saw several doctors in respect of her health problems. Pre-dating Dr Skinner, statements were made regarding my mother's apparent resistance to treatment with thyroid hormone, both in T4 and T3 form. Treating my mother with an "excess" of thyroid hormone was seen as both responsible and necessary for the treatment of her condition. Unfortunately, a clear strategy for her condition never materialised, due - as is my impression - to a lack of continuity in her care arising from attendance at hospital clinics where she would see different doctors at each appointment.

Finally, with my mother being left in a poor state of health, we decided to attend Dr Skinner's clinic in . Dr Skinner was thorough in taking my mother's medical history and in examining her. His consideration that higher levels of thyroid hormone would be necessary for the treatment of her persistent hypothyroidism was of no surprise as it confirmed what had previously been diagnosed on several occasions. Indeed, she was already on a higher level than would be tolerated by a more restrictive regime ie one solely based on blood test results.

Adding T3 to the existing dose of T4 which my mother was taking produced an improvement in her health but not to any great extent. It was at this point that the use of a animal-sourced thyroid extract was added to my mother's medication. With Dr Skinner's continued support and attention to the detail of my mother's care, she improved greatly.   
 Throughout this, and continuing to this day, Dr Skinner has required that he be provided with regular blood tests, as well as seeing my mother for regular checks. He has been nothing less than attentive, thorough and successful in his approach - to his credit and my mother's benefit.

I am deeply concerned to learn that Dr Skinner is being criticised on the basis of his approach to treatment, an approach which has led to my mother's improvement. To think that after many years of poor health, a distant tribunal may reach a decision which casts my mother back into that condition from which she had escaped troubles me.



Frankly, it worries me deeply as I do not know what I - attempting to be a dutiful son - should then do. What, then, for my mother? I doubt, in the event of a negative outcome, that the architects of that outcome would be offering any help.

It seems to me that any consideration of Dr Skinner's approach to the treatment of hypothyroidism cannot exclude the success which he has in that approach. It cannot exclude the reality of people who do not respond to "satisfactory" levels of thyroid hormone. It most certainly cannot exclude the patients who depend on Dr Skinner's approach, to the benefit of their health.

I could go on, and am sufficiently exercised by this matter to wish to do so, but I think my point is made: Dr Skinner is a good doctor to my mother, long may he continue to be so.

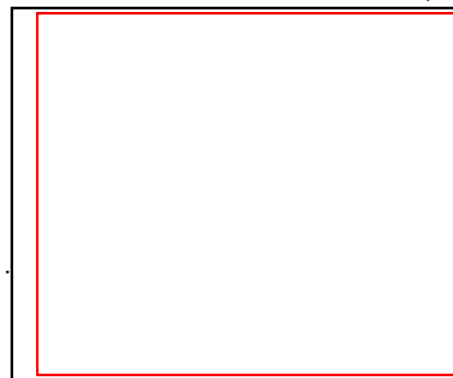
Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box with a red border, used to redact the signature of the sender.

Cc: Dr Mark Dudley, MPS, 33 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0PS  
Ralph Shipway, RadcliffesLeBrasseur, 5 Great College Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3SJ

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I am writing in support of Dr. Skinner & the work he is doing in the treatment of people with thyroid problems.

On a personal level my wife Jane was recommended by a friend who had been treated along with her daughter by Dr. Skinner & both have been able to return to a normal life - which is very encouraging to all of us - especially my wife.

Before she had visited Dr. Skinner she had been struggling for at least  years with mis - diagnoses from various G.P.s in our health centre, & not being able to lead a normal life in many ways - made it very frustrating & difficult for her to cope & to get anyone to believe her for all those years.

As her husband it has been frustrating to say the least, that it has taken so long

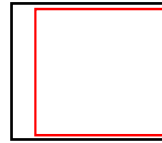
for you to be heard but as soon as  
she had a consultation with Dr. Skinner,  
all the questions & queries from over the  
past years started to be answered.

She has started to improve but  
we know that she has further to go  
yet to get back on the road to  
good health.

So as I stated at the beginning  
of this letter we support the work  
of Dr. Gordon Skinner and what he  
is doing for so many.

yours sincerely,





Dear Ms Collins

I am writing to you in support of Dr Skinner with regards to the GMC hearing.

I can honestly say Dr Skinner is a wonderful Doctor and one of the few that really understands hypothyroidism. He is an excellent practitioner because he listens to the patient and their symptoms before making a judgment. He is reassuring and very knowledgeable. He also puts you at complete ease.

I have been suffering from all types of symptoms of Hypothyroidism for over  years now. In fact it was  years ago I suggested to my GP to be tested and he reluctantly did so. My TSH came back "normal"

At the start of this year I decided to undertake another blood test for my thyroid and this time I can look at the results myself. Luckily my current GP was much more open minded and didn't fop me off, so organized a blood sample.

My results were.

Again my TSH was normal.

It was due to having a low free T3, the active thyroid hormone. Brain cells have more T3 receptors than any other tissues, which mean that a proper uptake of thyroid hormone is essential for the brain cells to work properly. T3 is actually a bona fide neurotransmitter that regulates the action of serotonin, norepinephrine, and GABA (gamma aminobutyric acid), an inhibitory neurotransmitter that is important for quelling anxiety.

Now my Free T3 was low in the range and is now (Luckily) being known to be more important with good doctors that the TSH reading. The Free T3 has an optimal range in the upper third. This made me suspicious so my GP then sent a referral letter to be seen by Dr Skinner.

Therefore my experience was although I had OBVIOUS hypothyroid symptoms I was told in the past that there was no thyroid problem because of a questionable "normal" TSH.

The TSH lab test was developed around 1973, and approximately 200 volunteers were used to establish the range. Other population studies have been done since then.

David Derry M.D., Ph.D., a thyroid expert and researcher, based in Victoria, British Columbia states "The consensus of thyroidologists decided in 1973 that the TSH was the blood test they had been looking for all through the years. This was about two years after I started practice. Having been taught how to diagnose hypothyroid conditions clinically I was in a position to watch to see what the relation of the TSH was to the onset of hypothyroidism. What I found was many people would develop classic signs and symptoms of hypothyroidism but the TSH was ever so slow to become abnormal, rise and confirm the clinical diagnosis. Sometimes it never did. Finally I began treat patients with thyroid in the normal manner I was taught. I could not see why I had to wait for the TSH to rise for me to be able to treat them."

However when I saw Dr Skinner, we talk about the problems I was having [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Then Dr Skinner actually made a brief physical examination, something no GP has ever done since I was a little boy. He took my temperature, [REDACTED] He took my blood pressure, it was [REDACTED] He checked my tongue, [REDACTED] He then check my thyroid gland, [REDACTED]

He was the FIRST DOCTOR to diagnose me on symptoms and not just on blood tests alone and particularly the faulty TSH.

I have now been on desiccated natural thyroid now for [REDACTED] months and although not 'cured' as yet (as I haven't been on the medication long enough I have improved quite a bit) and looking forward too, not too much in the distant future to a full recovery and getting my life back and this would not have been possible without Dr Skinner.

It would be a very sad day indeed if it is decided take Dr Skinner is not fit for practice and there then will be many more people who have suffered like myself and will continue to suffer because of the TSH blood tests and NOT listening to the patients symptoms and diagnosing that 'it is all in their head'.

Thanks you very much for taking the time to read this.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]



To - Patricia Collins,  
Investigation Officer  
G.M.C.

5<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Dear Patricia Collins

RE DR. SKINNER

We write this letter in support of Dr. Skinner as we feel we owe him a great deal. For several years our daughter suffered from an [ ] type illness. During this time all blood tests showed nothing amiss and although at times she was confined to bed or had to use a wheelchair to be taken out no diagnosis was given and she was told there was nothing wrong. After reading an article in the Daily Telegraph about Dr. Skinner and his diagnosis of a patient with very similar symptoms, arrangements were made for her to see Dr. Skinner. Within minutes he diagnosed a thyroid problem. Tests showed that T3 was not being converted to T4. Medication was prescribed and a process of recovery started. [ ]

She now leads a full life and is able to work part-time. Having experienced and shared with her family this traumatic period and the long haul back to health we feel that we must support Dr. Skinner, for him to be struck off the Medical Register would be a travesty.

Yours sincerely

Copies to

[ ]  
Ralph Shipway  
Dr. Mark Dudley

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[Redacted]

Ms P Collins, Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
St James's Buildings, 79 Oxford Street,  
MANCHESTER M1 6FQ

18<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Dear Ms Collins

Gordon R B Skinner MD (Hons) DSc FRCPath FRCOG

I am advised that there is to be a hearing around Dr Skinner's fitness to practise.

I have been attending Doctor Skinner's clinic for more years than I care to remember and if it hadn't been for his thyroid expertise, I would not be enjoying a normal life – in fact, I would have no life at all!

In the past my family practitioner focused purely upon my blood results for thyroid and was not interested in my many other symptoms. When she believed my blood results were within range that was the end of the discussion. Doctor Skinner was recommended to me by someone who had been seriously ill, with an untreated thyroid problem, and who recognised the symptoms I had. ~~Doctor Skinner~~ thoroughly checked me out, an under-active thyroid was diagnosed/treated and my progress monitored with my GP being kept up to date on my progress.

[Redacted]

My new doctor agrees entirely with Doctor Skinner's treatment: we check bloods out regularly and the results are forwarded to Doctor Skinner. When I asked my Doctor why my previous doctor hadn't recognise Doctor Skinner's diagnosis and treatment, she said that some doctors are nervous in prescribing anything for thyroid. She, however, is happy for me to stay on Armour, use part thyroxine/part Armour or use Thyroxine in entirety, whatever suits me/my body. Armour, however, works perfectly for me, so I'll be staying with it and Doctor Skinner.

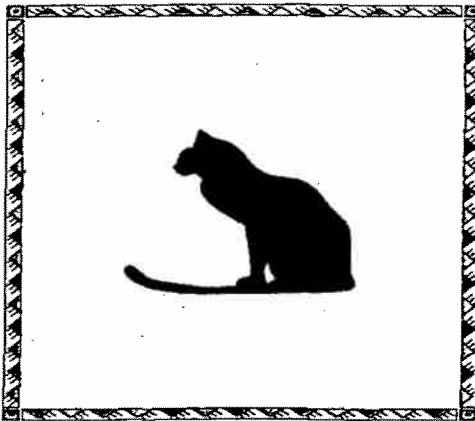
In closing I would like to say that all Doctor Skinner is responsible for is bringing me back to normality. It's wonderful to be well after going untreated for so many years. Please see the error of your ways and throw this case out!

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

V A Doctor Skinner -

cc Mr R. Smith



20<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Dear Ms Collins,

Re: Doctor Gordon Skinner - Fitness to Practice case (02.07.07)



[redacted] I reached a normal TSH (at 75 mcg T4) my GP was happy that I was well - I clearly was not and I was incredibly lucky, through Diana Holmes book, to come across Dr Skinner and have the privilege of being treated by him. Not only is he a very compassionate Doctor he is also, I'm sure you are aware, incredibly astute in his diagnosis of how each patient is best treated. Under his guidance and treatment, fully supported by my own GP, my health is much improved.

In brief, I will never know [redacted] I do know that Dr Skinner has helped many people and that without him I would be very ill indeed. I have also passed his information onto other hypothyroid friends and I am aware that, again with his medical advice and support, they, like me, have a much improved quality of life.



[redacted] I hold no malice to the GP who felt she had done enough for me at this stage, she did not have the right tools to ensure that I was treated fully. The TSH test is not the full story and is, therefore, not 'fit for purpose'. What is needed is more Doctors like Dr Skinner who look at the whole person and not just what a blood test tells them.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

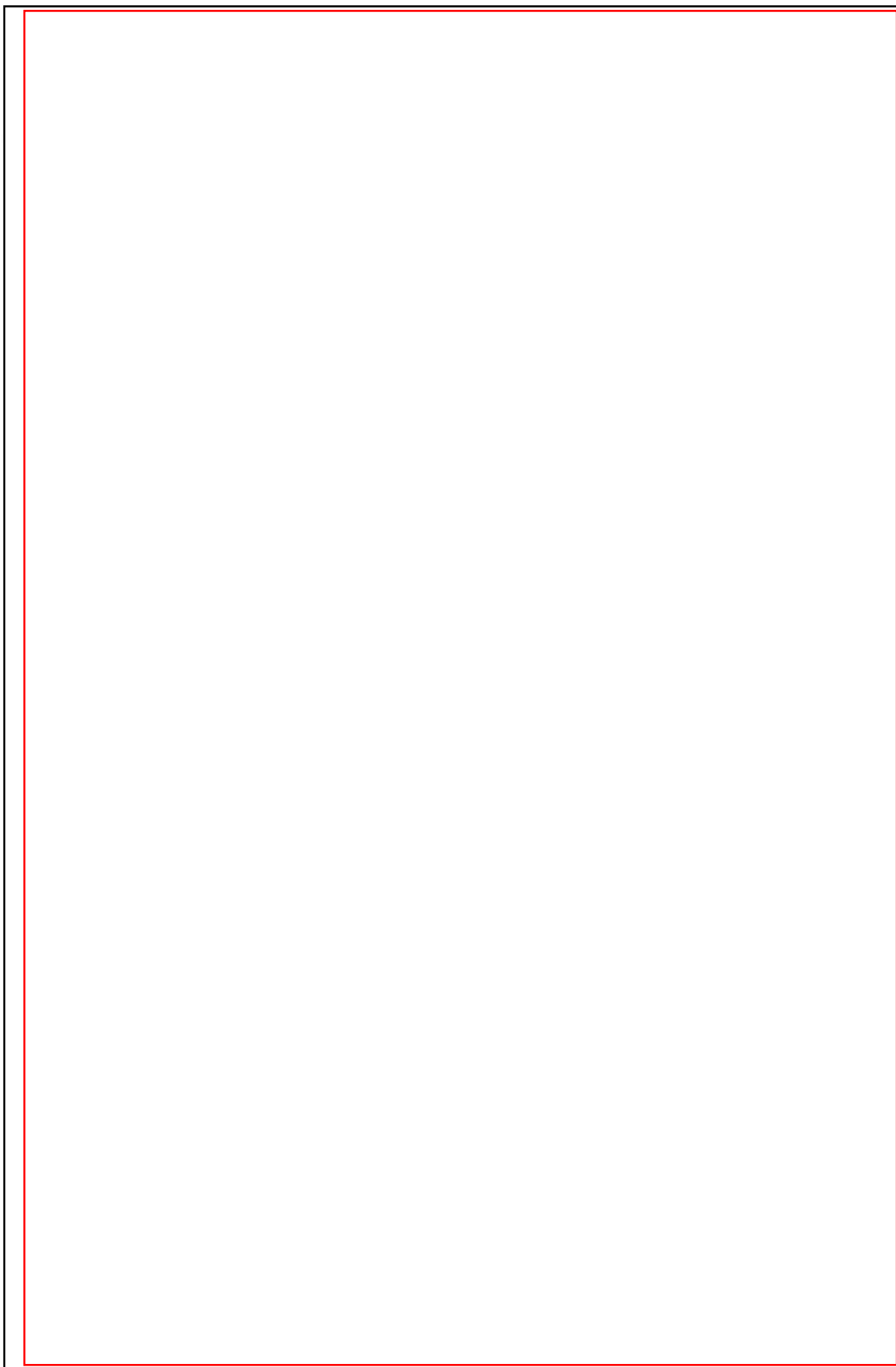
Your Members have done likewise, and studied for many more years, to achieve their professional recognition and, as such, should be allowed to use all the medical tools at their disposal to do what they undoubtedly joined the profession for - make people well where at all possible.

I impeach you to reconsider the decision to put Dr Skinner through this. Should the case go ahead and end in his licence being revoked I am genuinely fearful for the health of my fellow thyroid sufferers and myself.

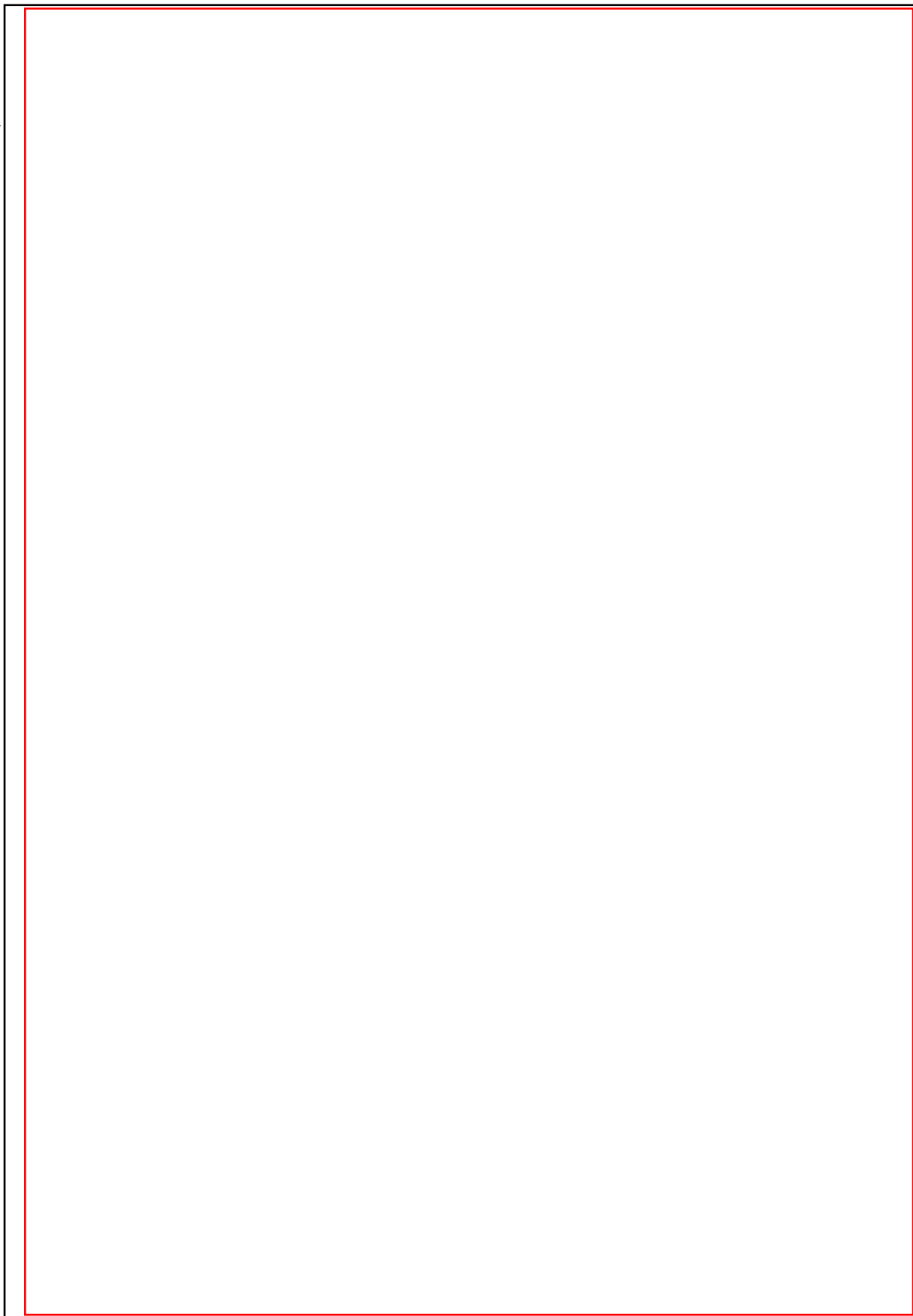
Yours sincerely,

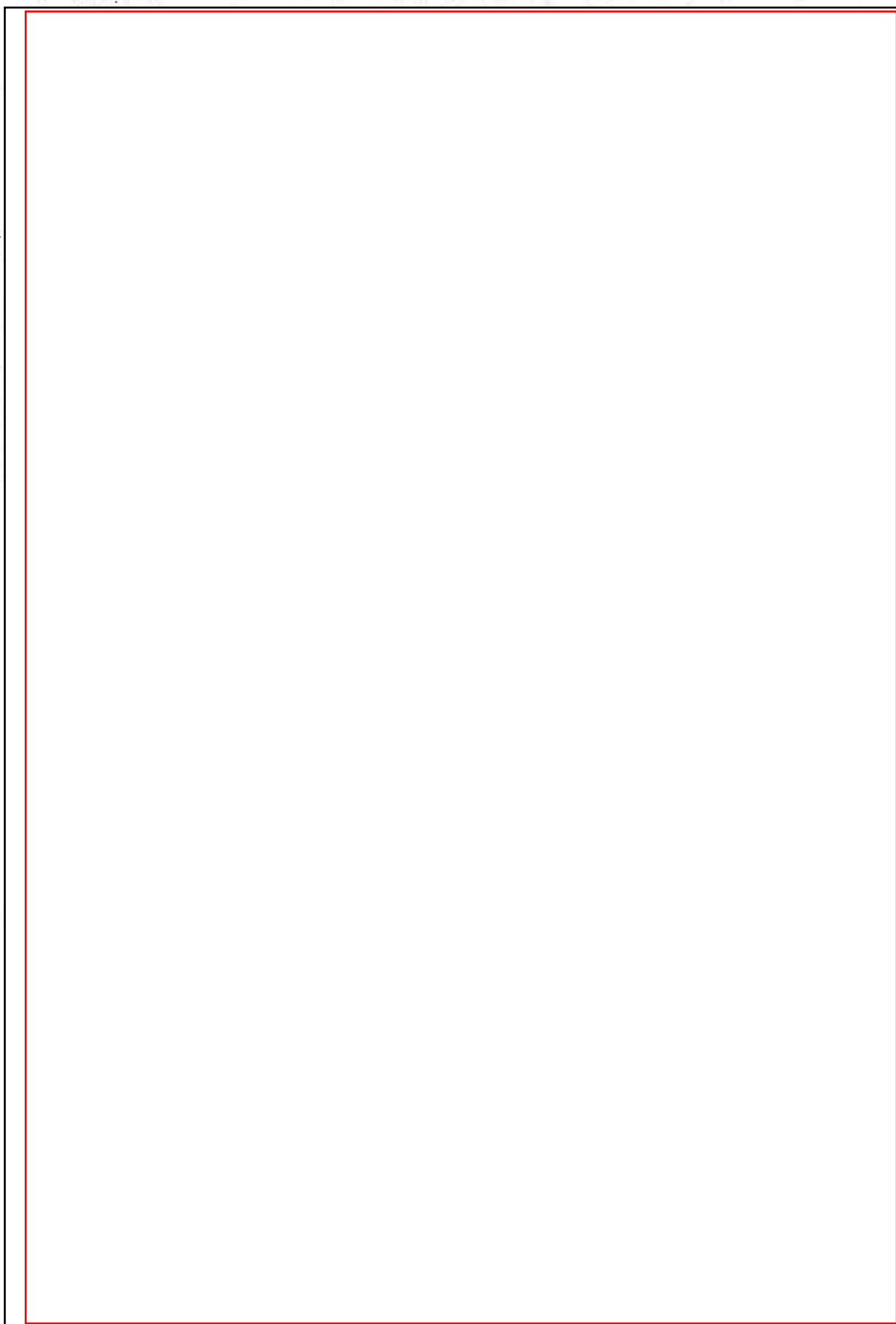
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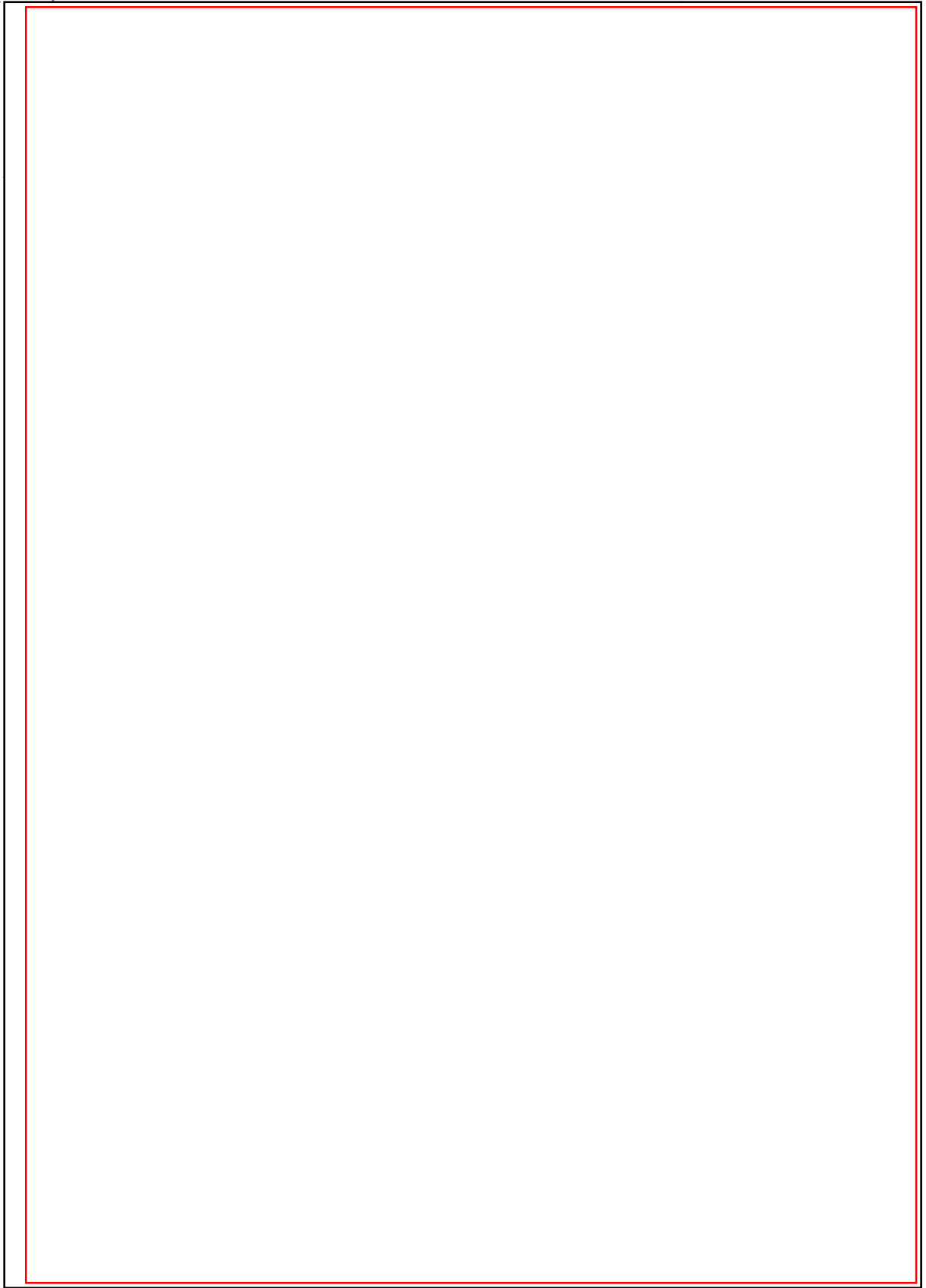
*Copy for Mr. R. Shipway*

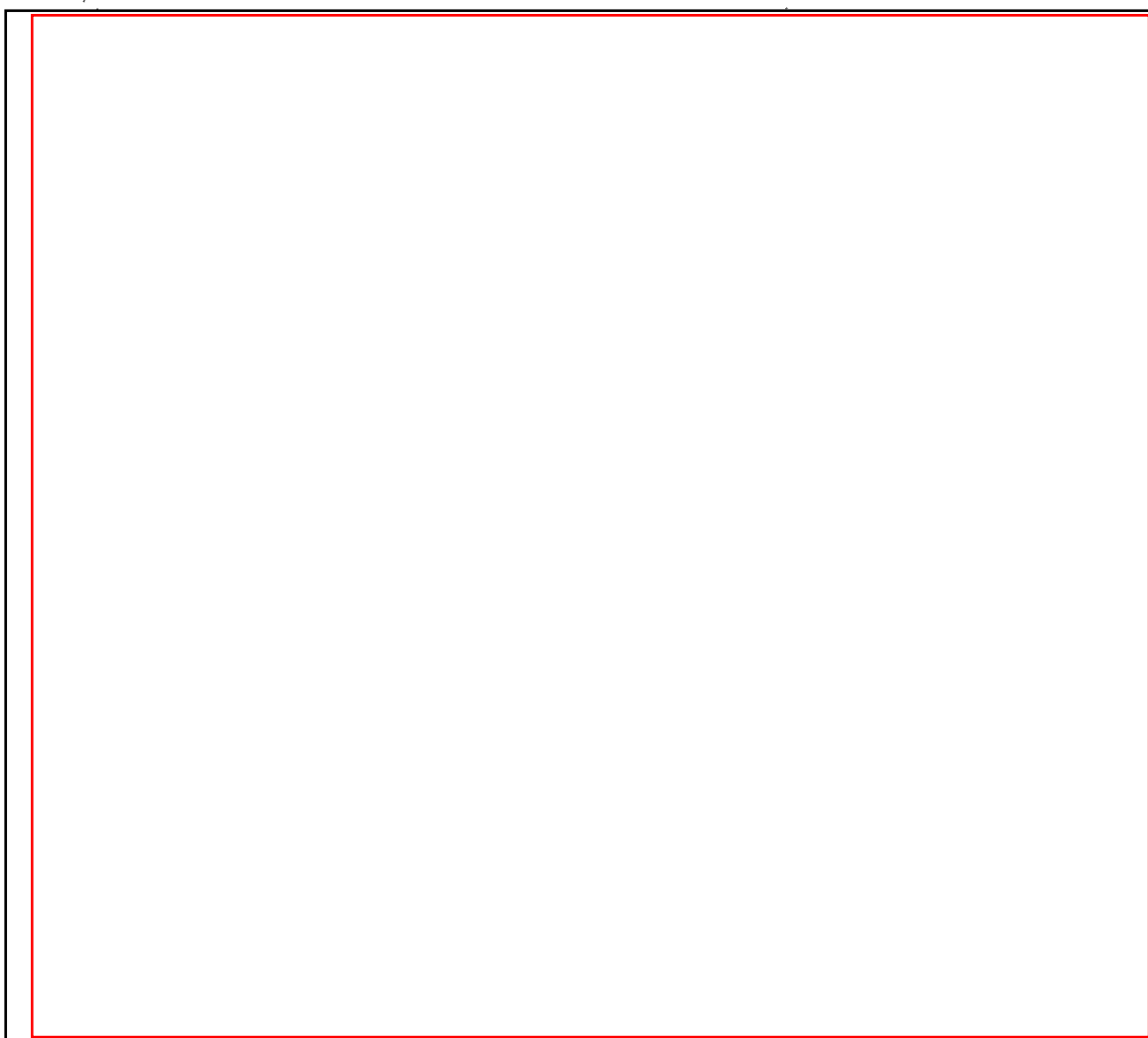




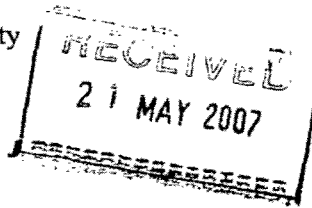








The Medical Protection Society  
5, Great College Street  
Westminster  
London SW1 P3SJ



19<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Dear Sirs,

I understand that my Thyroidism Consultant, Dr. G. R. B. Skinner is to appear before the General Medical Council in July. I write this letter to protest against this action.

Dr. Skinner first saw me in [redacted] after referral by my own doctor, at a time when I was not feeling at all well after [redacted] years on a relatively low dose of Thyroxine [redacted] mcg rising to [redacted] mcg. daily.

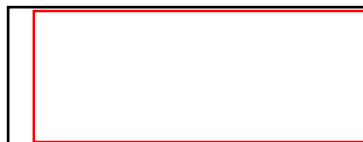
With the utmost care and concern for my general condition, Dr. Skinner skillfully raised my medication a few micrograms a day until I had begun to feel slightly better at [redacted] mcg. daily. Then keeping me on a level dose [redacted], he increased my medication to its optimum level for me (ie. the level at which I felt I had recovered my energy, my life, and my sense of well being) over a period of about [redacted] months. I have remained on this optimum dose of Thyroxine for the last [redacted] months and am feeling better than I have felt for years.

At [redacted] mcgs of Thyroxine daily, the clinical tests would say that I was over medicated. But I am not. [redacted]

[redacted] my whole system feels whole again.

Whilst I do not know why Dr. Skinner is to be called before the General Medical Council, I would hazard a guess that it is because he listens to his patients, rather than merely accepting the results of the clinical laboratory tests, which in my case were way out. The tests on me said I was above the level, and therefore did not need further medication, whilst in fact I was far from well. If doctors like Dr. Skinner, based on their own studies and the experience of treating their own patients, did not have the courage of their own convictions to stand up for what they believe is right for general medicine and patients, how would medical boundaries ever be pushed, or medical progress made?

I fully endorse Dr. Skinner's approach to thyroidism treatment; that of listening to his patients, and acting upon his considerable experience in treating them over and above what the clinical results of blood tests may say. Furthermore, I do not understand why the General Medical Council should be concerned about the success this man has had in treating Thyroidism. Dr. Skinner has my full support and that of my grateful husband.



cc. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth  
Dr. G.R.B. Skinner



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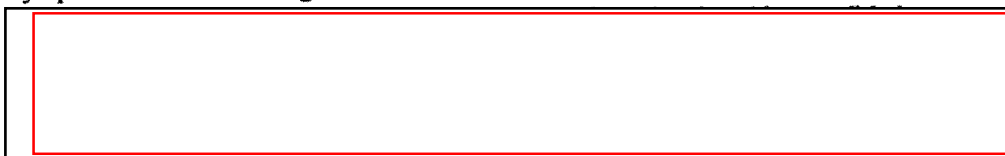


18<sup>th</sup> May 2007

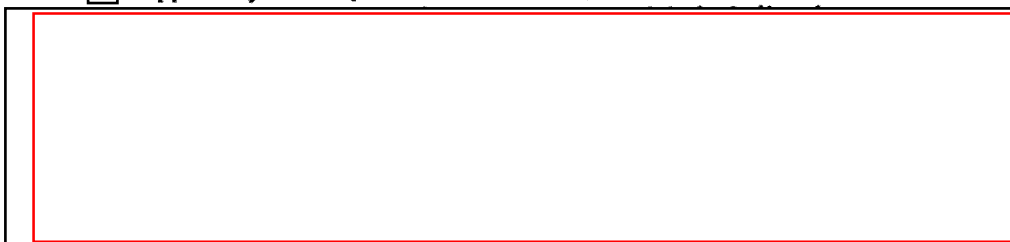
Dear Ms P Collins,

I am writing to you in support of Dr Gordon Skinner in the upcoming investigation by the GMC. I am shocked to hear of what I hope is an enquiry into his practises, but am concerned is a witch hunt.

I am a patient of Dr Skinner, and have been since [redacted]. I went to see him as I have low thyroid and [redacted], which may be linked. I have spent years being ignored by doctors, have been mismanaged from the age of [redacted] at the onset of my health problems, have been patronised and lectured by doctors ignorant of my conditions. Dr Skinner on the other hand, in a few short months has investigated my clinical symptoms which not a single other doctor has done - [redacted]



Dr Gordon raised my level of thyroid when my own GPs would not -- [redacted] was at [redacted] - apparently an acceptable level. My symptoms at that point included: [redacted]



After a few months on the gradually higher dose recommended to my GP by Dr Skinner (and I am grateful to my GP for his cooperation) those symptoms have either gone or are almost eradicated apart from the [redacted] which are going to need more time/solutions.

I now feel much happier, more supple, more energetic, stronger in body and voice, calmer, warmer, faster, younger, sexier, [redacted]



[redacted] And I still have energy left over.

I still have a challenge left to me, but I now feel much more positive about my chances for recovery and I believe that the extra thyroid was essential. If a thyroid level of 19-22 is acceptable then why is [redacted] acceptable? Why do doctors not listen to patients? We are told to be responsible for our own health but doctors are often not willing to support us in that responsibility. Why is it easier to label a patient greedy and lazy than to listen and sympathise and offer solutions? [redacted]

[redacted]  
I think that Dr Gordon Skinner is very brave to stick his head above the parapet in order to help unwell patients – he knows how many people he is helping, and has complied with all of the conditions he has been given – he has never harmed anyone to my knowledge but I know of plenty GPs who have harmed or nearly harmed through lack of listening. Are they all to be investigated by the GMC?  
I think that this never-ending attack on Dr Skinner should be stopped immediately, and if a patient is ever found to have been actually endangered or harmed by his careful and thoughtful common-sense treatment, then the GMC will know it is then right to investigate.

In the meantime I and anyone else can tell you of cancer sufferers unlistened to, (turned out to be lung and lymphatic cancer in a father of four), neurological patients told they were hypochondriac, [redacted]  
[redacted], lipodema sufferers told they are eating too much etc etc etc. Perhaps those doctors should be looked at first.

Dr Skinner is a kind and gentle man, who gives time and attention and thought to his patients, achieving fantastic results. What's the problem again?

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Copies to Dr Skinner and Mr R Shipway

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19<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Investigation Officer  
GMC - 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
St. James's Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester, M1 6FQ

For the attention of Ms P Collins

I am a patient of DR G R B SKINNER currently due to be tested for 'Fitness to Practise' proceedings (starting 2<sup>nd</sup> July) concerning 'relative importance of clinical features and thyroid chemistry in the diagnosis and management of hypothyroidism'. I write in support of him as I have benefited from treatment.

I have been under his care for thyroid replacement for several years now and I take 'Armour Thyroid' as its chemical equivalent for some reason did not work for me. Many symptoms eased over the few months I started treatment and I felt the benefits within a few weeks. Although I had been diagnosed with   
 I knew something wasn't right. My thyroid chemistry came back 'normal' from my GP and a year later I couldn't dismiss it as  as I 'couldn't live like that' anymore... GP/science couldn't help me so I went on my knees to God and I truly believe my prayer was answered as I was guided to the treatment and has helped me enormously...



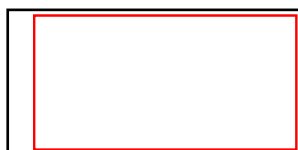
These are just some examples and believe me with my new energy I could say a lot more! It's been a journey for me and I could be 'clinical and technical' about this but I firmly believe as a Christian that it is good to seek out as best we can in whatever opportunities present themselves, a way to take our 'humanity' forward.

I have listened to peoples' gripes about Dr.Skinner and sometimes I smile/or not and agree with them. Sometimes they are expecting Godly miracles from a mere mortal who actually has no means of knowing how many clouds there are in the sky! He's human & these are normal human- day-to-day things but on the whole I have no problem with the Thyroid treatment as any difficulties seem to resolve in time. My own GP can't deny that I've been helped with the treatment but does not support it.

I pray to God that He will look into the situation and I hope the medical profession can come to some decision about future care of patients. I cannot make nonsense out of sense and visa versa it would not be correct to do so and there is a gap in medical care that needs consideration, God willing, if at all possible.

Dr. Skinner does not need defending or buttering up as the results speak for themselves. I'm only too happy & privileged of the opportunity to write this letter to give him something back for stepping out and taking medicine seriously, extending its application.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and may God bless all those involved in any decisions about proceedings that may follow.



Ms. P. Collins  
G.M.C. Manchester

17.5.07

Dear Ms. Collins,

I am writing to inform you that I consider Dr. Skinner to be an excellent practitioner. I was diagnosed in early [redacted] with an underactive thyroid gland. My G.P. tried different amounts of Levothyroxine, but none of them made me feel better. In [redacted] [redacted] after my G.P. had told me there was nothing else he could do for me I went to see Dr. Skinner. We tried altering the dose of Levothyroxine and adding Tiroxin, but there was still no improvement. As a last resort we tried Armour and within days I started to improve dramatically. I really was very unwell before this and found it very hard to get through the day. Dr. Skinner has made such a difference to my life in prescribing Armour for me, for which I will always be grateful, after all my NHS Doctor told me he could do no more for me, Dr Skinner has proved him wrong. I will support him 100% and hope this letter will be useful.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

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P Collins - Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester M1 6FQ

Dear Sir or Madam

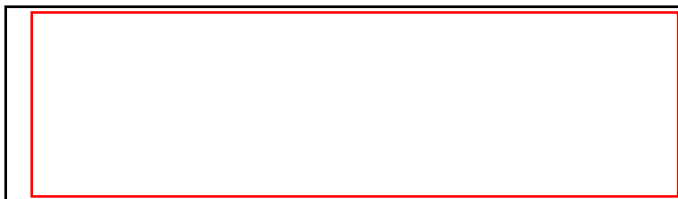
DR. GORDON R B SKINNER MD(HONS) DSc, FRCPath, FRCOG

This letter is being written in support of the above doctor who has treated two of my cousins over the last few years and who has been responsible for returning them to good health.

He is a most caring doctor and my cousins who suffer from hypothyroidism have been helped to find the optimum treatments for their individual needs during the consultations they have had with him.

Such an excellent doctor should be permitted to carry on with what he is good at - that is making his patients well. I therefore hope that the GMC realises that they are causing a great deal of worry and concern to this family and that this should not be happening.

Yours faithfully



Copied to:  Ralph Shipway, Dr Mark Dudley


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I write in support of Dr G. Skinner.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



I later became aware that my symptoms were similar to those of Hypothyroidism. I asked my G.P. if I could be tested for this condition. My FT4 and TSH were fluctuating but not outwith the guidelines for treatment, so I could not be treated. I felt then that I was doomed to remain as ill as I was without hope for a recovery.

Dr. Skinner diagnosed hypothyroidism, based on my symptoms, along with my medical history documents and started me right away on thyroid hormone replacement therapy. There was a gradual improvement in my symptoms as I began to recover.. My G.P. was informed of my progress on an ongoing basis over the time I was in the care of Dr Skinner.

2.

I was treated by Dr. Skinner for a few years and then returned to my local Health Practice where my own G.P. now treats my underactive thyroid condition with  mcg Thyroxine daily

The question I must ask is - why, when a fit, healthy, person suddenly becomes ill with Chronic Fatigue and 'possibly' Thyroid disease, the NHS fail to provide the same first class care.

My own thyroid blood tests were fluctuating e.g. FT4 from  an obvious problem but because the blood test parameter was 24 down to 9, I could not be treated. Surely everyone is different and what is borderline for one person may be total incapacity for another. Is it possible that something is wrong with the calculations of what is 'normal' for Thyroid Disease when this situation is happening to so many patients. After Dr Skinner started me on replacement therapy and I recovered this is proof that the blood tests were not showing an accurate picture for me.

I believe the NHS forced me to see a private Practitioner, I did not want to do this and I certainly didn't want to have to pay for my treatment but I was fortunate to be accepted as a patient by Dr. Skinner and I do believe without him I would not be alive now.

If the G.M.C. are conducting some investigation then it seems they should be looking at the loophole in the NHS system where so many Chronic Fatigue Patients are stuck in a state of limbo and fall through this loophole. Dr. Skinner is curing many of those patients including myself.

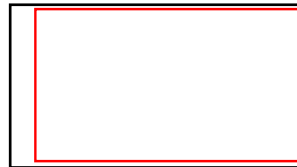
Should Dr Skinner be put in a position where he discontinues his Practice then this will virtually condemn all his patients to a life of misery.

Surely Not!!!

Yours faithfully

c.c. Dr. G. Skinner  
Mr. R. Shipway

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22<sup>nd</sup> May 2007

To whom it may concern,

I have been a patient of Dr Gordon Skinner for over [redacted] now, and feel had it not been for him, I would probably be dead. Having been diagnosed with an under active thyroid gland in [redacted], I was constantly running back and forth to my G.P. as I knew I was not getting any better.

Even after being on thyroxin [redacted]ng per day I still didn't seem to be feeling any better. My G.P. insisted that eventually the thyroxin would begin to work and I would feel better. I got the number of Dr. Skinner's clinic in [redacted] from a friend and decided to give him a try, with the referral from my own doctor. From the moment I met Dr Skinner, I knew that he knew his stuff. He could tell me just exactly what I was going through and I did not have to prompt him. I immediately began to feel that at last someone understood what I was going through. It was Dr Skinner's idea that I should be put on T3 as well as my thyroxin and this made a difference, he also noticed [redacted] this had gone un-noticed for some time. Once Dr Skinner, had informed my own doctor of his findings, he put me on T3 and [redacted]. With all this I slowly began to feel better.

I am a mother [redacted] and work full time, therefore, had it not been for me attending Dr Skinner, I do not know what would have happened. Having an under active thyroid gland or an overactive thyroid gland is a very odd illness to have, you do not know if you are suffering from depression or something more serious, many times I contemplated doing horrible things to myself because I did not know what was wrong with me and everybody kept telling me that I should be alright. If the outcome of the case against Dr Skinner means he is struck off then I do not know what will happen to all the patients he has including me who depend so much on the knowledge he has of this terrible illness

Yours truly

[redacted]

Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

17 May 2007

Dear Ms Collins

**Re Fitness to Practice Panel, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007, Dr Gordon Skinner**

I am writing in support of Dr Gordon Skinner who is due to appear before a Fitness to Practice Panel on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007. This follows numerous appearances over a period of more than two years before Interim Orders Panels both in London and Manchester, some of which, as a patient and great supporter of Dr Skinner, I have attended along with many other of his patients.

I consider it wholly wrong that Dr Skinner has been subject to this protracted and grossly unfair process as it is the outcome of a single complaint from a patient that Dr Skinner has never seen. The considerable positive evidence from Dr Skinner's patients has not been taken into account, their many testimonials have not been read out nor have Dr Skinner's patients or the patient representative bodies, e.g. Thyroid UK, been able to give evidence at the hearings. You might claim that the panel are provided with copies of such documentation prior to the hearings, however, [redacted] it is obvious that the panel are ill-prepared and have little relevant knowledge concerning the case. Panel members have changed from one IOP to another which gives little continuity and cannot lead to an in-depth understanding of the case, especially so when panel members are not experts in the field of endocrinology.

I am appalled at what Dr Skinner has had to go through over the last two years. The restrictions that the GMC have been placed upon his practice have created considerable extra, extremely time consuming and unnecessary paperwork. I cite as an example of such wastage of time and money, the IOP hearing held in London on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006 where the majority of the proceedings were concerned with the pagination of Dr Skinner's submissions and the use of Post-it notes. I fail to see the medical relevance of such deliberations by the GMC and don't consider the restrictions imposed on Dr Skinner have had any positive effect on his already exemplary practice, rather they have had a negative effect by reducing his available time to do what he does best – successfully treat his patients.

Dr Skinner has approximately 4,000 patients on his list who are extremely satisfied with their care. In many cases he has restored the health of his patients, myself included, where many other practitioners have failed. In the process these failures have incurred considerable cost to the National Health Service due to continuing care and unnecessary tests, which could have been prevented as these people could have been quickly and easily treated using thyroxin.

I hold Dr Skinner in the highest regard as a highly competent, extremely experienced and caring doctor. His treatment and thorough approach to my hypothyroid condition has resulted in my being well again after suffering seriously debilitating ill-health for several years, manifest in multiple previously inexplicable symptoms. Over a period of [redacted] years, several other specialist physicians in Endocrinology, Gastroenterology and Dermatology, were unable to diagnose my condition and I consider Dr Skinner to be the only specialist currently practicing in the UK who is able to fully understand my condition and treat me effectively. He has been treating me successfully for the last [redacted] years.

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I understand that the reason for referral to the GMC was inappropriate clinical practice including maintaining medication for patients at dangerous levels and failures of communication with other medical practitioners. I dispute this on the grounds that in my case:-

The Armour Thyroid medication prescribed to me by Dr Skinner is at levels appropriate to my requirements and is entirely safe. In the years I have been taking Armour I have suffered no side effects. The medication has prevented me having to take a variety of other much more unpleasant drugs previously prescribed to me by other specialists to treat my symptoms rather than the cause, including anti-depressant medication. I am regularly reviewed by Dr Skinner, who carefully monitors my symptoms and blood test results.

Dr Skinner has been in regular contact with my General Practitioner throughout my treatment and has personally written detailed letters to him following each consultation.

I would like to express my extreme concern about what will happen to me and all Dr Skinner's other patients if he is unable to continue to practice. I have previously been treated with synthetic T4 thyroid replacement medication and also a combination of synthetic T4 and T3 without success. It has become obvious that I need the other hormones contained in Armour Thyroid to be completely well and Dr Skinner prescribes this medication for me. I am extremely concerned for my future, should Dr Skinner be unable to continue to treat me. Prior to receiving his care I was very ill and performing the most basic of daily tasks, such as washing and dressing, was difficult and exhausting. It made the care of my family very difficult and I found it almost impossible to work. I have now been able to fully resume my career successfully and on this basis have additional financial commitments. I am very fearful that without Dr Skinner's ongoing care, my health would undoubtedly decline and I would be unable to continue to work which would have a negative impact on not only my own, but my family's lives.

I would urge the Fitness to Practice panel to look at the true facts of this case by listening to the positive testimony of Dr Skinner's patients and to act in the public interest by supporting Dr Skinner in his quest to alleviate suffering amongst those of us who do not benefit from treatment with synthetic thyroid replacement medication alone.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature box]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

Mr Ralph Shipway, RadcliffesLeBrasseur, 5 Great College Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3SJ

Dr Mark Dudley, Medical Protection Society, 33 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0PS

COPY

REC-  
19 May



May 23, 2007

Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James's Buildings,  
79, Oxford Street  
MANCHESTER  
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins

Fitness to Practise Hearing 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2007: Gordon RB Skinner MD (Hons)

I am writing to you today in support of the above-mentioned medical practitioner. While your reasons for holding this hearing are unclear to me I can say as a patient with a nearly life-long history of thyroiditis that Dr. Skinner has always been a careful, knowledgeable and ethical doctor. His goal has been two-fold: to make his patients better and to work with their GPs to maintain the patient's health.

In my own particular case, I only needed to see Dr. Skinner once and the rest of the time my GP has been monitoring my thyroid with the TFT blood test (but I do not agree that the TFT blood test is 100% wholly accurate in determining how well my thyroid is functioning). Also, I am more than happy to be taking Armour Thyroid. Not only that, I am saving the National Health Service some money because I pay for the thyroid supplements myself. I buy them from a reputable chemist in the UK.

I fail to see why the Health Service has such a hard time realizing that some thyroid patients do not benefit from the synthetic thyroxine it provides. I, for one, found it was not benefiting me and my quality of life suffered for many years. Without doctors like Dr. Skinner and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] my quality of life would have continued to worsen. I could have even been dead by now. However, I have a whole new lease of life and at the age of [REDACTED] I am now [REDACTED] And I can do all this because I take my Armour Thyroid every morning.

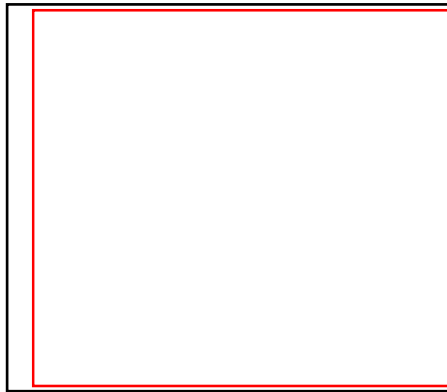
If you must do these 'witch hunts' then so be it but it is time you realise that many of us thyroid sufferers are being given a bad deal by the NHS with your current rules and regulations concerning the treatment of thyroid disease. I don't think your

endocrinologists really know much about how badly thyroiditis really affects a person's body and well-being.

Dr. Skinner has always been an extremely careful practitioner trying to help people like me. He has done absolutely nothing wrong. I will be most surprised if you really find that he is at fault in any way.

Thank you for reading this letter,





23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2007.

Ms. P. Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
St James's Buildings,  
79, Oxford Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ

Dear Madam,

Dr. GRB Skinner- Fitness to Practice Hearing:

I would write to you in connection with the treatment which I  
have received from Dr. Skinner over the past years from

[redacted].

To explain my situation, as it was, and is now, I would inform  
you that from [redacted] up until [redacted] I had repeatedly felt the need to  
attend my G.P. due to presenting symptoms which I felt to be  
abnormal for a woman of my age, on each occasion it was felt by  
different G.P.'s within the practice that I showed symptoms of an  
under-active thyroid, on each occasion a blood test was taken  
but the test on each occasion identified that my thyroid function  
was OK. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Again on each occasion it was suggested that it looked as if I was under-active and a blood test would be completed with the same results as previous. No other explanation could be given for the various symptoms presented and no further offer of investigation was made by any of the G.P.'s within the practice. At the date of the last test, at that time, it was indicated by the blood results that I was heading in the 'direction of being under-active' although no treatment was offered. I accept that my G.P. was following guidelines set down by the GMC, in only prescribing if the blood test results deemed it appropriate, although for years before the symptoms would be treated.

As a result of reading a newspaper article and at the insistence of my family, I was introduced to Dr. Skinner, with his help and advice I eventually was treated by my G.P. for an under-active thyroid and most importantly got my life back again.

Dr. Skinner contacted my G.P. and over a period of time, and a great deal of patience by myself, reached a point where the medication dispensed to me has brought me to a level of complete satisfaction that life is indeed worth living. [redacted]

[redacted]

Since [redacted] to date I have continued on the same dosage of medication and I am well with no symptoms presenting of either under or over-active thyroid. I am able to continue to work [redacted] as well as being able to enjoy my family especially my grandchildren. I am able to socialise with friends and feel able to go on holiday, these things I could not do some years ago due to the debilitating condition which I was in at that time.

I do not know where I would have been, and I certainly do not want to imagine the condition I would have been in, without Dr.




Skinner's help, his professionalism in dealing with me and working with my G.P. at all times has made a tremendous difference to my life and that of my family, doubt on his fitness to practice is a gross misjudgement of character.

I do not believe that I am putting myself at risk by taking prescribed medication, I have looked at the options and have taken on board all that Dr. Skinner and my G.P. has identified to me, I have weighed up the options and the quality of life which I have enjoyed over the past years is so far removed to that which I did not enjoy over the period of time prior to any medication that I feel I do not have any option, both for the sake of my family and myself, but to continue to take the prescribed medication as well as having annual checkups with blood tests by my G.P. which Dr. Skinner insists upon, on the understanding that should I feel any cause to seek my G.P.'s help between annual appointments I will do so. If I am at risk due to the medication which I take then the risk is caused by myself and no one else, it is ultimately my decision to take the medication. It should also be identified that during my early lifetime Thyroxin was added to the village drinking water supply by the local G.P. and Chemist, what effect might that have had on my profile!

Any fears that I have been made aware of by my G.P. which may arise in the future due to my continuing to take this medication cannot be guaranteed to either, arise if I continue, nor not arise should I discontinue, I believe that is already in the hands of a higher authority than myself, Dr. Skinner, my G.P. or the General Medical Council.

I, and my family, would ask that our support of Dr. Skinner's fitness to practice be upheld, with the highest esteem.

Yours faithfully,



c.c. Dr. Skinner.  
Mr. R. Shipway.

[redacted]

Ms P. Collins, Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
St James's Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester M1 6FQ

29<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Dear Ms Collins,

I am writing to you in support of Dr. Skinner of [redacted]  
[redacted]

I have had a Thyroid problem since approximately [redacted] which I hadn't realised was an illness. I merely thought that being a very busy time in my life I was just extra tired. That is until I [redacted] and was seen by my previous GP who felt that I had a problem.

[redacted]

On returning to see this Consultant he put me onto a very low dosage [redacted] gr of chemical Thyroxine: [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] I was in and out of his surgery for [redacted] years, only managing to up my dosage to [redacted] mg, still very inadequate. [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted]

I now understand that Dr. Gordon R.B Skinner is possibly going to be struck off by the Medical Council.

I wish to protest most vehemently against a decision of this kind. After Dr. [ ] had to relinquish his practice, Dr. Skinner took me over. He has been punctilious in his treatment; he stays in contact with my GP advising him of any changes in my health or possibly medication. In turn my GP keeps him up to date on my health too.

I feel that Dr. Skinner and Dr. [ ] and others who use a Natural Thyroid fill an enormous hole in the medical profession and are vital to so many of us. Chemical thyroxin's, such, as Levothyroxine, while they can be minutely monitored, do not suit everyone. [ ]

[ ]

Levothyroxine certainly does not have an adverse reaction, but having taken [ ] of Armour Thyroxine and [ ]mg of Levothyroxine per day for approximately [ ] months now, my health isn't quite as good as previously when I was taking [ ] gr of Armour per day. Dr. Skinner was trying to see if I could make the change from Armour to purely chemical medication. My T3 has dropped significantly in this time.

Please. They do not detract from the medical profession, they complement it. They have made a study of this illness. Sometimes, knowledge of this complex illness by the average GP and even, as in my own case, a Thyroid Consultant who prescribes Prozac is very limited.

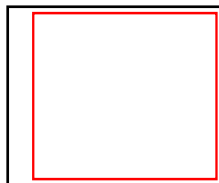
These Practitioners are few and far between and should be encouraged in their practices, not struck off because they do not appear to conform to your standards. They are not "Wise Men" or "Wise Women" who prescribe herbal remedies, they have taken the Hippocratic Oath and abide by it.

I would like to emphasise that I find Dr. Skinner an extremely caring and effective doctor, and I feel completely happy in entrusting him with my medical welfare. His

☐ years looking after my Thyroid condition have been most beneficial. Please don't let possibly misplaced bureaucracy kill such a beneficial practice.

Yours sincerely,

Cc: Dr. G.R.B. Skinner  
Mr. R. Shipway, Radcliffes Le Brasseur, SW1



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Ms. P. Collins  
Investigation Officer, General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James's Building  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester, M1 6FQ  
UK

☐ May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

**Re.: Dr. Skinner's fitness to practice hearing**

I would like to convey that I strongly support Dr. Skinner in his treatment of patients with so-called "normal" blood test results – nevertheless many of them are severely ill and are lying in their beds and sitting in their wheel-chairs. Life passes away, and nothing is done to help them.

I am a ☐ years old ☐ woman who have been ill since I was ☐ I have been in and out of several hospitals with different diagnoses (my blood samples have always been within the normal range area), ☐

☐ No physicians have ever helped me, and the struggle has been a never ending story that has been extremely hard for me. ☐

☐ to be honest I thought I was dying.

On ☐ I for the first time visited Dr. Skinner in his office in ☐, after having accidentally read about his practice and treatment on the internet. For the first time in my life I met a doctor that listened to his patient's complete story, symptoms and case history – an impressive man. We have continuously cooperated regarding my health situation up till this date, I'm treated with Armour Thyroid through my ☐ general practitioner and my health has improved considerably during the last ☐.

I would like to express that this hearing to me seems like a disgrace. Rather than being punished, Dr. Skinner ought to be honored. Dr. Skinner is the most professional doctor that I have ever met – and I have met a lot of them during my ☐ years of more or less severe sickness.

Stop this madness, please! The medical society needs his knowledge and expertise in this specific field. Patients with thyroid problems soon need to be paid attention to all over the world – in fact I fear that we are facing a huge, worldwide thyroid scandal.

Dr. Skinner should be treated with great respect and justice – I think that he is very right, and you are wrong.

Sincerely yours,

☐



Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
Fifth Floor St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

25 May 2007

Dear Ms Collins,

I am writing this letter in heartfelt support for Dr Gordon R B Skinner, whom you will be seeing on 2 July 2007, accused of impaired fitness to practice.

I am shocked and stunned that the allegations have even been brought up against Dr Skinner, a man with whom I credit saving my life twice, and putting me in a position to have a baby with my husband, a physical state the NHS would never have been able to restore for me because of outdated notions and close mindedness.

A few points I'd like to make.

1. Thyroxine is not superior in any way to animal thyroid, which was taken off the NHS back in the eighties - I am living proof.
2. Addison's and Cushing's are not the only adrenal diseases. There are shades of grey in between which can need medicating as well.
3. A person can be hypothyroid in spite of a normal TSH. I was.

Dr Skinner was the only one to grant me a trial of medication in light of my TSH. Had other tests been done (FT3, FT4), it would probably have been discovered that I have central hypothyroidism, a state where the TSH does not rise in response to flagging thyroid hormone levels.

Thanks to Dr Skinner, I managed not to step out in front of a bus as I threatened many times, as I was fed up of ill health and ill treatment / being fobbed off and ignored by Gps, at two different points in my life. [REDACTED] And thanks to Dr Skinner, I have been blessed with a little girl in late [REDACTED]

I'm not going to turn this into a rant at the NHS, though I certainly have enough reason to. Suffice to say, the NHS's close minded and parochial attitudes towards absolutes and in hormone levels has to stop, else people like myself will have to keep turning to alternative practitioners.

Dr Skinner has always maintained utmost professionalism with dealing with myself and dealing with my GPs, and as far as I know, no one has ever had any complaint about Dr Skinner's methods. My GP, in fact, is very pleased with my progress, and knows that I

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am one of those people who has an open mind and is willing to consider alternative methods as well as mainstream NHS medicine. She (and the whole practice) is happy for me to continue seeing Dr Skinner and maintaining my thyroid health in whatever way he/I see fit.

I'm almost 100% healthy again after a disaster in my life in [redacted], and I do not know where I'd be without Dr Skinner to save me a second time. My baby would have no mamma, I suspect, as I was very sick, wasting away from [redacted] hypothyroidism, and [redacted] [redacted]

If Dr Skinner is barred from practising, [redacted] patients like myself will be driven to the internet to buy our medications from foreign countries, and forced to monitor our progress by ourselves since often times the NHS refuses point blank to accept Armour thyroid or our diagnoses from Dr Skinner. That's ten thousand times more dangerous than allowing Dr Skinner to get on with his practice and keep us healthy!

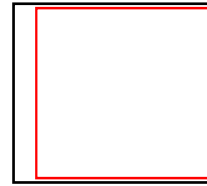
The GMC needs to spend its resources hunting down GPs who murder patients and gynaecologists who botch hysterectomies and all the other horror stories we've all heard in the news where doctors have hurt or killed their patients and the GMC failed to do its duty. Dr Skinner has never hurt anyone, and would never hurt anyone. He's never done anything but see thyroid problems from a different point of view than Professor A D Toft and his TSH-worshipping cronies.

For goodness' sake, get some perspective. For everyone's sake. Leave Dr Skinner alone.

Regards,

[redacted]

Patient of Dr Skinner since [redacted]



Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

**With Reference To: Doctor G. Skinner**

I am writing in regard to Doctor Skinner whom I have attended since [redacted] with severe hypothyroidism.

Hypothyroidism has affected my family for generations and I regularly attended my local GP practice and hospital where I was checked once a year due to the fact that I was at high risk from developing hypothyroidism. Even though I was regularly checked from the age of [redacted] I was always told I was 'borderline' and was never referred or prescribed any thyroid medication.

My under-active thyroid symptoms became increasingly harder to cope from [redacted] [redacted] years of unbearable suffering. At this point I decided I could not go on feeling this way, there had to be some way of finding a better quality of life and I decided to look for additional help and resources outside my local GP/hospital.

This is when I came across Doctor Skinner who ran clinics [redacted] I decided I would visit as I'd nothing to lose and could not feel any worse than I already did. After my first visit to Doctor Skinner I felt a heavy weight had been lifted off my shoulders..... for years I'd felt as if I was going insane which was always reinforced when I visited my GP/hospital as they categorically told me I did not have hypothyroidism [redacted]  
[redacted]

Once I'd been to see Doctor Skinner I realised how I felt was due to my hypothyroidism and not 'just in my head' and I began taking Thyroxine medication and researching more about thyroid in general. It took a few months before my thyroid replacement medication began to work as my thyroid function was so low, but within [redacted] months I began to feel more like my 'old self'. I [redacted] began to work again, [redacted] and be extremely happy to be living my life without suffering.

I am writing this letter because without Doctor Skinner's intervention I really don't know where I'd be today! I've been taking Thyroid replacement medication for [redacted] years, my life is totally back to normal, I feel like I did when I was [redacted]. I'm now [redacted] enjoying everyday that comes along. I certainly did not feel that way from [redacted] nor would I feel this way today without Doctor Skinner, I can never thank him enough for looking at the possibility that I was hypothyroid.

Yours faithfully,



24/05/2007

REGISTERED MAIL

To:

Ms P Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
St James's Buildings,  
79 Oxford St.  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

CC: Stephen Broughton - Coates, Broughton & Atwell Solicitors, 139 Main Rd, Ipswich, IP5 7NP  
Dr. Gordon R. B. Skinner - [REDACTED]  
Mr. R. Shipway - RadcliffesLeBrasseur, 5 Great College St, Westminster, London, SW1P 3SJ

RE: Hearing regarding the Fitness to Practise of Dr. R. B. Skinner MD (Hons) on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007.

Dear Ms Collins,

I am writing to you in support of Dr. Skinner regarding the above-mentioned hearing. I will keep this letter as brief as possible while making my position clear.

I have been a patient of Dr. Skinner for [REDACTED] years now and I consider him to have helped me achieve a complete recovery from my long-term illness, a recovery which I have now sustained for several years. [REDACTED]. Prior to this period I suffered with very bad health for [REDACTED] years during which time I attempted to find a solution via the NHS but was completely unsuccessful - [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] I have a clear understanding of the medication prescribed to me by Dr. Skinner, which is not a drug and am perfectly satisfied with the concept of its interaction with my endocrine system. In my opinion Dr. Skinner has always shown the highest level of professionalism, medical knowledge and caring with regard to myself while under his medical supervision.

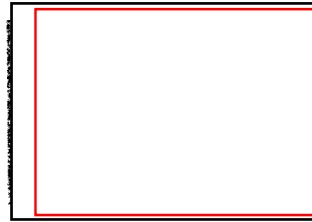
I consider this matter to be of a very serious nature, as I believe any impediment of Dr. Skinner in his role of providing myself with medical treatment & supervision would put the health of myself in serious jeopardy; I do NOT consider the NHS system as a viable alternative to this as they have already had [REDACTED] years of my time in which they failed to make a correct diagnosis or provide effective treatment.

Furthermore, if you are successful in impeding Dr. Skinner of his ability to practise and depriving me of the medical care, I will hold you personally responsible for any illness or degradation in health which I suffer as a result. In such a situation I will not hesitate to take all available legal action against you and the GMC, going as far as the European Court if necessary. I will also bring this matter, including the effect on other patients of Dr. Skinner, to the public attention by all possible means.

I trust I have made my position clear on this matter and I thank you for your time.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]



Patricia Collins  
Investigating Officer – Fitness to Practice Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St James Buildings  
79, Oxford Street  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ

26 May 2007

**RE: testimonial for Dr Skinner, fitness to practice hearing July 07**

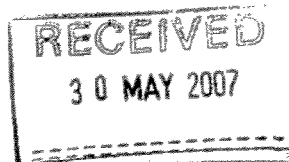
Dear Ms Collins,

I wish to testify that Dr Skinner is an excellent and skilled practitioner. I have an under active thyroid and was under expert care in [redacted] where I was resident for many years. However, upon returning to the UK I found that my local GPs were not up to date on the latest research and thinking in regards to managing this condition, and they offered a very poor service indeed. As a result my health was suffering.

Subsequently I went to see Dr Skinner, after he was highly recommended, and I was delighted to at last receive appropriate care. Dr Skinner takes plenty of time to understand his patients' unique situation, taking a full medical history and weighing up symptoms. As a result I have felt healthier than I have in many years as I am on the correct dosage of medication and under his close supervision.

I am surprised and annoyed to hear of the scrutiny Dr Skinner is under from the GMC when in fact you should be looking to the lapse of care, knowledge and understanding in this condition, prevalent in many local GP practices.

Yours sincerely,



[redacted]

cc: [redacted]  
Dr Mark Durley, Medical Protection Society  
Mr Ralph Shipway, Solicitor



2005/0701/01

28.5.07

Dear Ms Collins,

Thank you for your reply to my letter. However it is not clear whether or not you read my letter or whether you merely passed it on to the defence lawyer. There was no need to pass the letter on, I write to the lawyer also; but I wanted the GMC to know that Dr Skinner was viewed as an exceptionally good doctor by thousands of his patients and their families and that the case brought against him is unjust and brings the GMC into disrepute.

It appears from your letter that the deciding factor as to the outcome for Dr Skinner rests entirely on the ability of his defence (or the wealth of Dr Skinner to employ the best lawyer). The fact that the GMC knows he is a competent, caring and outstanding doctor is irrelevant so it would seem.

Yours sincerely



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Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ  
25/5/07

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Dear Ms. Collins,

I am a patient of Dr. Gordon Skinner. I find it necessary to write to you in his defence. I have been a patient of Dr. Skinner for some years now and have found him too be most caring and helpful to me.

I was first diagnosed with a borderline thyroid condition whilst still in my ☐s. At that time I was tired had continual thrush and could not conceive, my concentration was poor and I had horrendous PMT. My then GP told me that I had to have my thyroid checked every three months, this did not happen. ☐

☐ I went to various new GPs I was told that they did not "DO" preventative medicine or just simply did not agree that I needed a thyroid test done. ☐

Throughout all of these years I fought very hard to keep going. I did every thing that I could to keep well. ☐

☐ I was quite glad to be given some name for my condition as I was at very low ebb. I started to research the condition to see what I could do to help myself when someone told me about Dr. Skinner.

The first time I went to see Dr. Skinner I did not know what to expect and after years of feeling like a time waster I was quite shy. Dr. Skinner spent a long time speaking to me asking me about my family and my own health history (my mother and aunt both had thyroid problems), he then asked me to go to my GP and ask to have a thyroid test done at first I was reluctant to do this but Dr. Skinner insisted and that is what happened. Seeing Dr. Skinner was the first step in my recovery. I did not happen overnight. I saw Dr quite frequently to start with. Dr. Skinner kept my GP up to date. I continued to have my bloods taken at my local surgery and eventually I started to feel better than I had for many years. I now visit Dr. Skinner once a year (more if I feel any change in myself) I have my bloods checked regularly at my local surgery and send a copy to Dr. Skinner with a letter included to tell him how I am feeling at



that point. If I forget to do this someone is soon on the phone from Dr Skinner's clinic to remind me to go and see my GP.

I feel a debt of gratitude to Dr. Skinner as he has given me some sort of life back. I can now do a lot of things that you probably take for granted. I can also discuss with Dr. Skinner any other health worries I may have in the sure knowledge that he will write to my GP and enlist his help

Dr Skinner's conduct towards me has been professional and caring. I am only one of many people that Dr. Skinner has helped and I hope that you will take my story into consideration at the hearing to establish his fitness to practice.

Yours Sincerely



Tel. 0113 293 7060

28th May, 2007

Ms P. Collins  
Investigation Officer,  
GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL  
5th Floor, St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
MANCHESTER M1 6FQ

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Dear Madam,

Re Doctor R.B. Skinner

I have been a very grateful patient of the above Doctor Skinner for approximately the last [ ] years.

In all that time he has treated me with the utmost professionalism and dedication, and has taken the most wonderful care of my health.

There is no doubt in my mind that he has saved me from long term and increasingly debilitating ill health. I am now fit and well, and in my [ ]th year; the only medication needed by me is for [ ]

[ ] and an underactive thyroid gland.

In [ ], and after [ ] years of serious ill health, during which time I had done the rounds of various Out Patient Departments at [ ] Hospital, [ ] my health was becoming very much worse. Doctor Skinner was recommended to me, and at my first consultation he confirmed that I had an underactive thyroid gland (which had been ruled out categorically [ ] years previously [ ]). As soon as I began the necessary treatment my health improved beyond all recognition.

The reason the hospital had not diagnosed me correctly was on the strength of a single blood test, even though I was a classic case.

Sadly, my experience is not unique.

I am very thankful that I was able to consult Doctor Skinner when I did, but I am one of the lucky ones. There are thousands of people with thyroid problems who are not being properly diagnosed, and are not receiving the health care they need for what, after all, is an eminently treatable disease.

Continued overleaf/.....

2.

Doctor Skinner is an extremely clever and wise physician whose knowledge is at the cutting edge of optimum health care for his patients who are his primary concern.

I would unhesitatingly trust him with my life, and that of my family.

Yours faithfully,



21:05:07

RE. Dr. G. Skinner MD (Hons) DSc, FRCPath FRCOG  
NOTE: TO MSP Collins

I have been treated by Dr Skinner since

Prior to his treatment I was very concerned about my health and I dread to think where I would be without him.

He has kept my local surgery informed. They have continued the treatment and monitored my progress.

I have NEVER suffered any ill effects from the medication.

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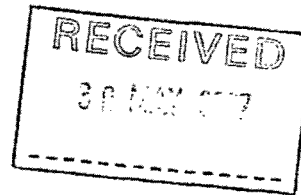


AKHS



28 May 2007

Ms. Patricia Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
Fitness to Practice Directorate,  
General Medical Council,  
5th Floor,  
St James's Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ



Dear Madam,

I am writing in support of Dr. Gordon Skinner who has helped me,  
and many others, to regain our health.

Diagnosed at my local hospital in  with Hashimoto's  
Thyroiditis was prescribed and kept on a low dose of Thyroxine.  
My general health continued to deteriorate and was hardly able to  
function.

I saw Dr. Skinner in  and over a period of  months  
following the treatment he prescribed my health began to improve.  
I now enjoy a good quality of life which I could not have  
regained had I not sought Dr. Skinner's medical advice.

I sincerely hope that you will allow this caring and  
knowledgeable doctor to continue to do his good work helping  
other people who suffer from hypothyroidism and who would  
otherwise be left to languish in a poor state of health for the  
rest of their possibly shortend lives.

Yours sincerely,



cc: Mr R R Shipway,  
Radcliffe Le Brasseur,  
5 Great College Street,  
Westminster,  
London,

cc:



Letter of Support – 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2007

FAO Ms. Patricia Collins – GMC [Investigation Officer]  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street, Manchester  
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms. Collins,

Re: Dr G R B Skinner MD(Hons) DSc FRCPATH FRCOG

I have identical twin cousins who have been treated by this marvellous doctor over the last few years for hypothyroidism. I have felt it necessary to write to you today to just say that a few years ago, my cousins became very seriously ill due to a reduction in their medication which they had taken since childhood. Their symptoms both in number and severity were horrendous and we thought they were going to die.

My cousins heard about Dr Skinner and his research relating to hypothyroidism and they presented their GP with a copy of his research and as a result the GP referred them to Dr. Skinner. Our family are thankful for this, as Dr Skinner has been able to return them both to excellent health. That is why no-one in the family can understand this current situation as in our view he deserves a medal not a GMC hearing.

Yours sincerely,



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Dr. Skinner - "Fitness to Practice"  
Hearing - July 2007 - Green Medical Council.

in July - Dr Skinner has treated my daughter, who had been deemed to have [redacted]

It had not been picked up by NHS system as her readings were deemed to be in the

With Dr. Skinner, [redacted] has had many  
 Thru Dr. Skinner [redacted]  
 Symptoms alleviated - [redacted]

Symptoms Valeriate -  H. West lateral gene

[REDACTED]

Although she had all the symptoms of hypothyroidism  
the NHS GPs refused to give her thyroid  
medication because her readings were  
so-called 'Normal'.

[REDACTED] now she works part-time - enough said!!!

[REDACTED]

So why are G Medical Council targetting  
DR SKINNER)?? This must cease & his full  
reinstatement be implemented

Therefore I urge you to support, with the many  
many hundreds, possibly thousands, of patients  
whom DR SKINNER has treated - (successfully)  
OR we will be LOSING one of the Best  
Doctors in the U.K. who can help  
all the Patients who have been left  
on the Scrapheap by NHS Doctors  
(who simply do not understand fully  
thyroid disease).

I must add, at this point, that my daughter's  
medication has been lowered by  $\frac{1}{3}$  and she  
is not nearly as well. And yet GPs

now acknowledge her need for thyroxine (thyroid medication) whereas before they refused to believe her condition;

Yours Sincerely

p.s. it is to do with the thyroid, Not absorption of T3/T4. This is recognised by various practitioners !!

(please find attached info !!)

To: [redacted]  
House of Commons  
London

- Copies to: M/s Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer,  
Fitness to Practice Directorate,  
GMC, St James Bldgs, 79 Oxford Street, Manchester.
- ①
  - ② Mr. RR Shipway, Radcliffe Le Brasseur,  
5 Gt. College Street, Westminster, SW1P 3JY
  - ③ [redacted]
  - ④ Adam Elliott / Alison Thompson  
Assist. Registrar, Adjudication Section,  
GMC, Regent Place, 350 Busby Rd, NW1 3JN

**Professor Kenny de Meirleir** from Brussels presented a paper in Northern Ireland on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2002 and a video of the lecture is available.

De Meirleir is certain that ME/CFS is a disorder of the immune system and has demonstrated the presence of small fragments of specific RNaseL nucleotides from the antiviral defence pathway within specific white blood cells; these fragments are *within* the cells and cause significant chaos to cellular homeostasis, with the antiviral pathway being continually activated, resulting in serious injury to the cell.

The damage caused by these fragments is not discernible on standard blood tests because the fragments interfere with receptor signalling, with specific cell surface ion channels and with proteins, all of which can only be assessed by specific and sensitive assays.

Such interference gives rise to disturbances to many pathways including oxidative stress, lipid peroxidation and cellular apoptosis, with consequences for the vascular endothelium and the behaviour of blood vessels in relation to stimuli.

The thyroid serves as a good example of this derangement: while T3 and T4 and TSH might be normal in ME/ICD-CFS patients, these standard tests of thyroid function give no indication of action at the thyroid receptor level. The problem is that the thyroid receptors are blocked by RNaseL nucleotides and despite normal test results on basic routine screening, the thyroid cells are not working. Whilst nominally euthyroid, ME/ICD-CFS patients may indeed be hypothyroid at a receptor level as distinct from a hormone level.

[http://www.meactionuk.org.uk/ladyman\\_v2.htm](http://www.meactionuk.org.uk/ladyman_v2.htm)

06/02/2006

- ↑
- To All:- (Vindication of Dr Skinner)
- ① Please note the above re "normal blood test" results, and yet hypothyroid at receptor level!!! This is exactly what Dr Skinner and other professionals have been saying for years!!!  
(See, also, attached newspaper cutting from "Daily Mirror" of 31/8/06, Professor Farid of London's Wellington Hospital statement.)
  - ② This is fact and not hypothetical theory.
  - ③ General Medical Council has to recognise that they are actively discriminating against one of the U.K.'s leading Doctors (Skinner) in this field, and must stop forthwith this persecution of a medical professional who has actively given back normal lives to many who, through other's incompetence/ignorance have been abandoned by N.H.S.

Thursday 31st Aug 2006

Daily Mirror

# Your LIFE

15 BRILLIANT PAGES START HERE!

**1** THERE are 4,000 deaths from ovarian cancer in the UK each year, according to the charity Cancer Research UK. If it's detected early, survival rates can be up to 80 per cent. But, tragically, in 50 per cent of women, the condition isn't diagnosed until it's advanced stages. Recent research reveals that symptoms appear earlier than once thought but are often mistaken for minor conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome. So be extra-vigilant if you have a personal or family history of ovarian, breast or colon cancers, are post-menopausal and have never had children.

● **Watch out for:** Stomach pain, bloating, diarrhoea, constipation, back pain, tiredness and needing to pass water more often than usual.

● **Check it out:** See your GP as soon as possible. You should be given an internal examination and possibly diagnostic scans. If you have a family history of the disease, ask about screening.

## 2 Underactive thyroid

THIS affects one in 50 women and one in 1,000 men, and may be hereditary or triggered by stress, infection, pregnancy or medication. Symptoms are often put down to depression, especially postnatal depression, or other hormonal problems.

Confusion arises when thyroid hormone levels test normal but the body can't use them properly, says Professor Nadez Fard, of London's Wellington Hospital.

● **Watch out for:** Tiredness, weight gain, mental fatigue, dry skin, thinning hair, depression, constipation, heavy, irregular periods and sensitivity to the cold.

● **Check it out:** This is easily controlled with medication but if not diagnosed it can lead to heart disease, infertility and anaemia. See your doctor for a blood test. If results are normal but you still have unexplained symptoms, ask for a referral to a hormone specialist.



# Mind, body & soul



After decades of misery, Barbara feels full of energy



At 50, Barbara felt worn out

Years of ill health left Barbara Reed, 55, from Morpeth, Northumberland, looking old before her time. Three years ago, she finally found the key to looking ten years younger.

I've never been vain, but I remember being really shocked when I first saw the picture of myself above right, taken in 2001, when I was 50 years old – I looked so old and worn out. I'd been diagnosed with an under-active thyroid gland two years earlier but, despite being treated for the condition, I was feeling absolutely dreadful – sluggish and tired with the most awful brain fog, as if I was thinking through treacle.

My problems had started way back in 1983. After having my children, David, 26, and Caroline, 23, my periods had

become so irregular that, after Caroline's birth, there was just spotting. I also had mysterious muscular pains, sinus problems. I felt cold all the time, and was losing a lot of hair.

Now that I know all about thyroid disease, I'm sure these were early warning symptoms. But they were not recognised at the time, so I was given non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for years and was eventually diagnosed with post-viral syndrome in 1994, when I was 43. I didn't know it at the time, but many of the drugs I was given can affect thyroid function: if you're vulnerable, and for years I suffered with low energy, aches and pains, and very dry skin.

At the school where I work as a technical assistant, I had to leave chairs in strategic places, so that wherever I worked,

I could sit instead of standing. While sewing, my fingers would seize up, and, after stapling papers at school or grating carrots at home, my arm would go into such a spasm that I couldn't use it for days. When Caroline was little, I even

had trouble pushing her buggy.

But whenever my thyroid function was tested, my results were always normal. This only began to make sense eight years ago, when I read that "normal" test results are meaningless if they do not take the individual into account. What is a normal thyroid reading for one person may not be normal for someone else.

My condition was finally diagnosed in 1999, when levels of my thyroid hormones had plummeted off the official "normal" scale. I was given the conventional thyroxine treatment (a synthetic form of the hormone I was missing) but, two years later, when the photo was taken, I was still having problems – and it was another year before I was referred to a specialist who recognised that my body was unable to use thyroxine properly.

The specialist gave me Armour, a treatment made from natural pig's thyroid, which is close in make-up to the human thyroid gland. It contains all the thyroid hormones humans need. Although it doesn't help everyone, it did help me, plus

I can get it on the NHS. After the first dose, I felt as if a light had been switched on in my head. I could think again and, over the following months, I lost weight, my dry skin cleared, and my puffy face and bloated stomach subsided. By 2004, I felt 100 per cent better. That old picture is a painful reminder of how bad things were – I'm just so relieved I found the energy to fight for the treatment I needed.

## Need to know: Under-active thyroid

The thyroid gland affects metabolism. If it's not working at normal speed (hypothyroidism), it can cause lethargy, low libido, weight gain, coldness, dry skin, hair and nails, slow speech and a foggy brain. It can be triggered by poor diet, pollutants, or glandular fever, and can also be caused by autoimmune problems (the body starts attacking itself). Treatment is usually with a synthetic form of thyroxine (T4 for short), one of the hormones made by the thyroid gland or tri-iodo-thyronine (T3). Natural thyroid (Armour), the treatment Barbara used, contains both T3 and T4. Visit [www.thyroiduk.org](http://www.thyroiduk.org).

## Health problems that harm our looks

- Inflammatory bowel conditions, such as Crohn's or colitis, affect food absorption and cause dramatic weight loss.
- An under-active thyroid causes dry skin and thinning hair.
- Anaemia causes thin hair.
- Food intolerance can cause problems, such as weight gain and bloating.
- Sensitivity to high GI foods (eg with diabetes) contributes to weight gain.
- Mineral deficiencies cause brittle nails and dry hair.
- Polycystic ovary syndrome can cause acne and excessive hairiness.



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28<sup>th</sup> May, 2007

Ms. Patricia Collins,  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St. James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins,

**Testimonial for Dr. Gordon R.B. Skinner, MD (Hons) DSc, FRCPath, FRCOG**  
**FTP, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2007**

I would be obliged that if before you put this letter on Dr. Skinner's file, you and others concerned in Dr. Skinner's case would be so kind as to read it and take into account the huge damage you (GMC) are doing to families like mine.

I am a husband of one of Dr. Skinner's patients and a father to two daughters who are also patients of his.

The doctors who have complained about Dr. Skinner's diagnosis and treatment of his patients obviously have never lived with the pain of seeing those closest to them suffer so much for so many years.

So many doctors failed to give a correct diagnosis and this, especially in my wife's case, led to many treatments and drugs over the years, most of which in my opinion were unnecessary had she had the correct treatment in the first place.

I have met Dr. Skinner on three occasions and I feel 100% sure that my family is safe in his hands, unlike those GPs and 'specialists' who failed them.

The action of the GMC is causing a great deal of stress amongst my family. Why? Because they are worried Dr. Skinner will be struck off the medical register and subsequently their GPs will stop their treatment. This would be catastrophic and you, the GMC would have to be held responsible for your actions.

From all the lay research my wife does into the problems of diagnosis and treatment of hypothyroidism, it looks to me as though there is a difference of opinion amongst the medical profession. This is typical of the many disputes which have occurred in the history of medical treatment and the welfare of patients gets forgotten as political infighting takes over. You have taken up a position in this dispute, clearly a wrong

one and Dr. Skinner is a victim of your vindictiveness. Is it perhaps also professional jealousy on the part of the doctors who have been complaining? I understand only one patient has put in an official complaint (IOP hearing 26<sup>th</sup> February) and that the rest are from doctors, many of whom have never seen Dr. Skinner's patients.

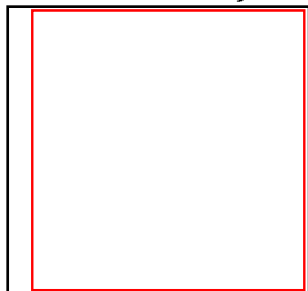
It also appears that papers have been sent to the High Court with inaccurate misrepresentations. This is a very serious failure on your part. What steps have you taken to correct the matter?

*The attitudes and actions of many doctors are dominated by the results of laboratory tests and paralysed by fear of disturbing the status quo. They fail to consider the validity of the testing process and most damaging of all, they fail to consider the health of their patients.*

You are running a politically motivated kangaroo court, desperately trying to justify your existence under ever increasing awareness in the wider world of your failures and inadequacies.

You should drop this case immediately, exonerate Dr. Skinner publicly and sit on your hands until the Government abolishes you, which it surely will.

Yours sincerely,



This letter is regarding the treatment of

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



May 29, 2007

Ms P Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council,  
5th Floor,

General Medical Council	
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### LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR DR SKINNER

Dear Sir/Madam,

In February [redacted] at the age of [redacted] I knew there was something not right with my health. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

While waiting for the test results from [redacted] hospital I heard about Dr Skinner, he also took a blood test as [redacted] the only word I ever heard was "adequate" from my practice nurse. While I was waiting for my next appointment with Dr Skinner my GP sent for me as the first test revealed I had [redacted]

When I went to see Dr Skinner for the second time he knew what dosage of thyroxine I needed [redacted] He diagnosed in one visit what it took over [redacted] years of various Doctors to diagnose and that did not include the thyroxine. For over [redacted] years my life was a misery, at night I used to pray to god not to let me waken in the morning then along came Dr Skinner with the medication I should have been prescribed at least [redacted] years earlier, thyroxine [redacted] Dr Skinner not only saved me, after my daughter had her first baby I watched her like a hawk, she was a carbon copy of me so I made her go to her GP. The word her practice used for a [redacted] years was "borderline". After I took her to see Dr Skinner he wrote to the practice she had just joined and her new GP actually apologized for the neglect which had nothing to do with him and monitors her carefully, she is now back to her old self.

[redacted]

[REDACTED] DR SKINNER IS THE ONLY DOCTOR I KNOW WHO IS FIT FOR PRACTISE, he gave me back my life after more than [REDACTED] years and saved my daughter the same fate. When I look at my husband, two sons and daughter I wonder how they all remained such well-balanced people because sometimes I was very hard to live with.

Without being dramatic Dr Skinner gave me a life worth living, last year at the age of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Whoever brought this case for Dr Skinner to answer should maybe look into the number of times the words "adequate and borderline" are ruining some other poor souls lives.

After Dr Skinner contacted my GP my thyroid levels [REDACTED] were well monitored.

Dr Skinner will always be in my prayers.

YOUR NAME GOES HERE (Signature below)

[REDACTED]



30 May 2007

Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
MANCHESTER  
M1 6 FQ

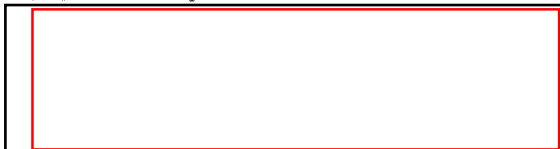
Dear Ms Collins

**Dr Gordon Skinner**

Dr Gordon Skinner has been treating me for a low thyroid problem for  years now.

He has been thoroughly professional and caring and his treatment has been extremely effective. My health has greatly benefited from his expertise.

Yours sincerely



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Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St James's Buildings, 79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins,

May 31<sup>st</sup> 2007

I am writing to you with great concern about my health. I was diagnosed with Hashimoto's Thyroiditis in  and was prescribed thyroxine replacement therapy. For the next  years or so, I steadily got worse health wise while on thyroxine all this time. I suffered from all the classical symptoms of being hypothyroid and eventually I was in very poor health and had no quality of life at all.

No doctor acknowledged that my ongoing deterioration in health could be because the prescribed treatment was wrong. They just said my blood tests were normal and therefore it could not be thyroid related. How wrong they all were! In desperation I looked for private help and found Dr Skinner who recognized that there was something truly wrong not being well on thyroxine after all those years. With his help and a prescribed change in medication to Armour Thyroid, I slowly began to regain wellness and in the last few years my health has been steadily improving.

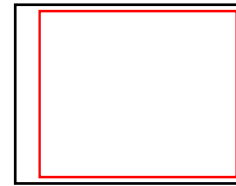
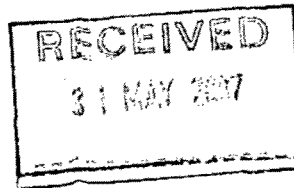
I cannot understand that the GMC, who are supposed to be there for the interest of the patients, would jeopardize thousands of patients health by taking this action against Dr Skinner, a man who has given patients their lives back. I am very worried about what will happen to my health should the Fitness to Practice hearing be negative for Dr Skinner. I cannot emphasize this enough as I was very ill whilst on thyroxine alone and have already lost so many years of my life in ill health, years that I could have been alright with treatment that worked for me and not against me. Therefore I ask you to seriously consider this letter of support for the doctor who helped me and thousands of other patients back to having a quality of life again. A negative outcome I feel, would have serious consequences for the patients of Dr Skinner.

Yours truly,

CC to: Dr Gordon Skinner  
Mr R Shipway, Radcliffe LeBrasseur



Attention Mr. R Shipway  
copy letter as requested  
by Dr. Skinner.



28<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Dear Ms. P. Collins

I am writing to you as a letter of support for Dr. G.R.B. Skinner. Around  years ago I was  years old and very unwell and visited my own G.P. several times with what I know now were classic signs of hypothyroidism.   
 Neither helped in fact it made my life worse. Eventually I had a blood test and hooray it came back I had hypothyroidism. I started on thyroid tablets up to  micrograms and still felt no better., but the blood test was in the normal guidelines, so why was I still so low?

I found out about Dr. Skinner and made an appointment. I was asked to fill out a questionnaire about the signs and symptoms I was experiencing. At the consultation Dr. Skinner gave me a thorough examination even looked at my tongue. I began to feel at last someone actually understood about the problems I was experiencing and I was not going mad after all. It was explained to me that taking too much thyroid treatment had serious health risks and would make me Hyperthyroid so to gradually increase with Armour Thyroid until I felt well.



The only time I have ever felt any better was with increasing my dose with the Armour Thyroid. I take care to note my blood pressure and have had no bad side effects, the quality of my life is greatly improved.

Over the years I have met many women who suffer with their Thyroid, a lot live very close to me none are very well on conventional medicine and only being allowed to stay within the guidelines. I feel a lot more needs to be found out about our problems, it may be keeping people alive but the quality seems impaired in most cases. G.P.s on the whole know very little, and Specialists only go by the blood test results and not on how the patient is responding to the treatment and their well being. I have never seen information in surgeries it seems little is known yet so many people., in particular women are suffering from this disease.

I honestly feel there should be more G.P s like Dr. Skinner willing to help and being open minded when it comes to the blood test results.

Why do people visit him when they are on normal treatment ? Answer, because they are still very unwell.

I hope I will be able to continue on the Armour Thyroid medication, so do my nearest and dearest they do not want the tearful, tired , depressed and unhappy person that I had become back.

Yours sincerely



[Redacted]

24<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Ms P Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St James's Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester, M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins

**Dr. G. Skinner : Letter of Support**

I would like to support the above in his Fitness to Practise Hearing of the General Medical Council.

I attended Dr. Skinner at [Redacted] in approximately [Redacted]. My General Practitioner could not detect my over active thyroid in my blood tests and could not treat me until it did – even although he said he was sure I did have the problem.

I [Redacted] heard about Dr. Skinner. On my first visit Dr. Skinner detected my thyroid problem and wrote to my GP. I had [Redacted] visits to stabilize my thyroid, and in this time I was receiving Thyroxine from my GP. I did try Armour Thyroid for a few months, but went back to Thyroxine for financial reasons.

[Redacted]


Dr. Skinner was very professional at all times. He helped my when I was at my lowest and always felt confident with him.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Stamp]

<b>General Medical Council</b>	
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
For the attention of: -  
Ms P. Collins, Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
St James's Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2007

Dear Ms Collins,


**RE: Dr R.B. Skinner, Fitness to Practise, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007**

I am writing to you to convey my deep concern that Dr Skinner has been summoned to a meeting with the GMC with regards to his fitness to practise medicine. I would like to register with you my extreme disappointment that the GMC has seen fit to do this to such an outstanding doctor.

I have been a patient of Dr Skinners since . When I first went to see Dr Skinner I was extremely unwell. I had been ill for  years and had had over  months off work; only been able to return to work part time. Even this was in jeopardy when I came to see Dr Skinner as my health was deteriorating further. As a single parent this was disastrous for not only economic reasons but also the effect on my ability to join in with family life and care for my children was diminished.

I suffered with 



 My GP was also concerned, as I had previously always enjoyed robust health. My GP had finally diagnosed hypothyroidism and had started the treatment with thyroxine but was finding it difficult to manage it.

My doctor and I have greatly appreciated Dr Skinner's highly skilled input and both have worked together extremely effectively. My health has improved out of sight and I have been able to return to work full time. Many of my symptoms have resolved. I am slowly building up my strength again but after years of ill health I realise this will take time. My GP has been amazed by my improvement.

I know that without Dr Skinner's expert professional guidance my outcome would have been very different. I only wish that I had requested to see Dr Skinner sooner as I would not have had to suffer ill health for as long as I did.

I request that the GMC consider my case when looking at Dr Skinners medical practise and allow him to continue to serve his patients, offering his invaluable expertise. I would like the opportunity to continue being a patient with Dr Skinner and for him to continue offering his advice to my GP so that my recovery may continue.

If you need to contact me for any further information I would be more than happy to furnish it.

Yours Sincerely



Cc: Dr Skinner  
Mr R Shipway

Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer, GMC  
5<sup>th</sup> Flr, St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester MI 6FQ

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2007

Dear Ms Collins

Ref: Dr Gordon Skinner

It has come to my attention that Dr Skinner is to appear before a Fitness to Practise Panel commencing on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007.

I am writing to give him my full support.

I developed noticeable symptoms of hypothyroidism in my [redacted]'s and [redacted]

Typical symptoms at that time were:

[redacted]

vs

Despite my GP saying I was presenting classic symptoms of an under active thyroid function, when my blood test results came back "normal" (for that NHS Trust's purposes) that was the result he relied on. A piece of paper.

This state of health continued for [redacted] years. By this time I had done some reading on this condition. I realised that I needed to take matters into my own hands. After another blood test in [redacted], my GP did agree to prescribe [redacted] mcg of thyroxine daily, which frankly made me feel worse because I now understand that it was far below what I would eventually need.



When in early [ ] I read about Dr Skinner, I arranged to go and see him straight away.

At all times Dr Skinner, using my blood test results and paying particular attention to my presenting symptoms and physical condition, increased my dosage of thyroxine at 4-6 weekly intervals from [ ] and on to my optimum dosage of [ ] mcg per day, which I take to this day.

My first consultation with Dr Skinner was in early [ ] and by the following [ ] I was beginning to feel decidedly better. My symptoms were abating, [ ]

After every appointment Dr Skinner wrote meticulously to my GP informing him of my progress.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2000 my GP sent me to see Dr [ ] a Consultant General Clinician at [ ] to satisfy himself that I would actually need the [ ] mcg of thyroxine that Dr Skinner was by then recommending would become my optimum dosage. Dr [ ] totally concurred with Dr Skinner, [ ] He recommended my GP to prescribe accordingly.

Under Dr Skinner's supervision I have my life back, my husband has his wife back, my children have their mother back. I thank God for him.

Yours sincerely

[ ]

P.S. Copy of this letter has gone to Mr R. Shipway

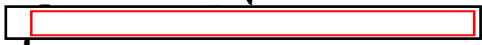



1.6.07


Dear Ms Collins

RE DR G.R.B SKINNER

I am writing in support of this excellent doctor, who has helped my family as well as myself.

I am a , and was unable to continue to function in this role when I felt all the symptoms of hypothyroidism.

By prescribing the appropriate amount of Armour Thyroid, which ~~was~~ he introduced cautiously, I have been able to continue to provide the necessary care required for all my family over  years or so.

Since I changed address fairly recently, my new G.P. suggested that he took over my care, because of the distance from .

2

I have agreed to do this, but will miss the unique professionalism and knowledge shown by Dr. Skinner.

Indeed, it would certainly deny many more people the opportunity to benefit from his wisdom and skills if he were no longer practising.

I shall always be grateful that I read an article in the Readers Digest on hypothyroidism, which eventually led to an appointment at one of his peripheral clinics in .

I trust that there will be no case to answer, and the hearing does not even take place.

Yours sincerely


1<sup>st</sup>. June, 2007

Ms. Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St. James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

General Medical Council	
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Dear Ms. Collins,

Dr. Gordon R. B. Skinner MD (Hons) DSc, FRCPath, FRCOG

**Testimonial for Dr. Gordon Skinner who appears to have put his unblemished career on the line  
so he can return his patients to full health;**

**Unlike the doctors who have complained and the GMC for allowing this to happen –  
You must all hang your heads in shame!**

I reiterate my support for Dr. Skinner as I have done for all the IOP hearings. I also deplore the action being taken by the GMC.

*At each consultation my daughters and I are always treated with courtesy and have a thorough health check, blood pressure, heart rate, temperature, palpation of thyroid etc. and asked relevant questions.*

Having spoken to others at the IOP hearings, we have all agreed that when our treatment is taken over by our GPs, we are given a repeat prescription without any health check and are just given a thyroid blood test once every six months or a year. Very unlike treatment when under the supervision of Dr. Skinner.

In The Times of 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 Dr. Thomas Stuttaford was writing about the early days of Sir Edward Heath's time in office. At the end of one short session in Parliament Dr. Stuttaford had dinner with two medical MP's. 'Sir Gerald Vaughan and Lord Trafford, both alas now dead. They were not only medically qualified but also very distinguished leaders in their own clinical disciplines. During dinner we discussed the PM's health. All three of us agreed that there was something amiss, but to our shame none of us spotted the condition!' He goes on to say 'Later when Phillip Whitehead's television programme on the history of politics between 1966 and 1976 was shown, it was obvious what was wrong with Heath. Although the film couldn't explain the nature of the trouble that had caused the condition, the series of pictures clearly demonstrated its presence and development over the years. When Heath was elected leader he was lean, sharp, thin and obviously dynamic. By the time his period in office was over he, like Boris Yeltsin, had the typical heavily jowled, puffy-faced, droopy-eyed appearance, coupled with a gravely, hoarse voice, slow speech, ponderous lethargy and social withdrawal of a person with an under-active thyroid.'

Stuttaford goes on to talk of Yeltsin. 'President Yeltsin's lead doctor discussed with me at length the influence that the failure to diagnose hypothyroidism in the Russian's leader earlier had had on his health. Its effect on the blood cholesterol levels and therefore the cardio-vascular system is obvious – that on the heart muscle, the heart rate and the blood pressure, more complex'..... Yeltsin's doctor thought that if hypothyroidism had been detected earlier, the history of Russia as well as Yeltsin's health and drinking, might well have been different!

Dr Skinner on the other hand always looks for all the clinical signs and symptoms of hypothyroidism thus successfully diagnosing and treating where other doctors have failed.

With regards to the results of blood tests once on thyroid medication you may be interested in the following.

In 1986, W. D. Fraser et al were talking of different laboratory ranges for patients on Thyroxine. Their final results came out as a range of 12-36 for Free thyroxine, 3 – 8.6 for Free triiodothyronine and finally below 0.1 to 13.7 for the TSH. They state that 'concentrations of free triiodothyronine free thyroxine and TSH are incapable of satisfactorily indicating over-replacement. The tests perform equally badly in detecting under-replacement? These ranges would explain why doctors such as Anthony Toft have said that some of his patients don't feel well until their TSH is below 0.1 and their FT4 around 30!

'The standard replacement dose in Europe and America was 200-400mcg a day until 1973, when it halved to 100-200mcg a day on the basis of biochemical measurements of thyroid hormone concentrations. We are not aware of any study that has shown that this reduction in the standard dose had had any clinical beneficial effects!'

So, the argument on thyroid replacement and blood tests has been raging for decades. An academic debate that should not put a doctor through one of your kangaroo courts.

Patients have placed been in the middle of this debacle and it appears little or no thought has been given to their health and wellbeing (as is obvious due to the actions of the GMC, regardless of the fact that the GMC's authority in the Medical Act, is to protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public. It appears the GMC are flaunting these regulations!

If because of your actions, I cannot have the medication I need, that is bad enough. On the other hand, if I see my adult children suffer, I will fight tooth and nail for them and will seek legal advice.

The Dr. Skinner's of this world should be applauded for their remarkable courage in diagnosing and treating their patients regardless of the constant barrage of abuse and complaints by other ill-informed and ignorant doctors.



Dr. Skinner out-shines them all.

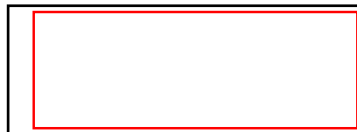
**Dr. Skinner does not pose any danger to the public and I request this action be stopped immediately.**

Yours sincerely,



Copies to:

  
Mr. Ralph Shipway  
Dr. Mark Dudley  
 MP



4<sup>th</sup> June 07

Ms P Collins  
Investigating Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

Testimonial for:  
Dr. Gordon R.B. Skinner MD (Hons) DSc. FRCSPath. FRCOG  
FTP Hearing, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007.

I have known [redacted] for [redacted] years, and her daughters [redacted]  
and [redacted] since their births, [redacted] and [redacted] years respectively.

During the last few years I have seen the difference that Dr Skinner's  
treatment has made to all their lives, and I therefore regard the action by the  
GMC to have a devastating and detrimental effect on their health.

Yours sincerely



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Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor St James's Building  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

5<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Dear Ms Collins

I am very concerned to hear that Dr Gordon Skinner has been asked to attend a Fitness to Practise hearing on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007.

I am a patient of Dr Skinner's. In brief I became ill in [redacted]. Over the following [redacted] months I was seen by [redacted] I received diagnoses ranging from [redacted]

By the time I was referred to Dr Skinner in [redacted] I was desperately ill, virtually housebound and on the verge of losing my job due to ill health. I had what I now know to be classic hypothyroid symptoms including [redacted]

Dr Skinner correctly diagnosed my condition using both blood tests and clinical observation, something which the other medical professionals that I had seen had failed to do. In a matter of weeks I was able to return to work and now enjoy the same standard of health that I experienced prior to my illness.

I have now been a patient of Dr Skinner's for nearly [redacted] years. During this time the care that I have received from Dr Skinner has been of the highest standard. His manner and attitude have been extremely professional and exemplary.

I am at a loss as to why the GMC should want to investigate and potentially suspend such a valuable and effective Practitioner. As a specialist in the area of thyroid illness Dr Skinner is able to diagnose and treat many patients who are currently being failed by the NHS. In short if it was not for Dr Skinner I am convinced that I would still be ill with an undiagnosed condition. What's more I would be unemployed and dependant on benefits.

I would like the above to be taken into account in your investigation and request a written response to this letter detailing the outcome.

Yours sincerely

cc Mr R Shipway, RadcliffesLeBrasseur  
Dr Gordon Skinner

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[redacted]

[redacted] 4/6/2007

Dear Sir /Madam,

I am writing to support Dr Skinner who has been treating me and two of my daughters for under-active thyroids. I was not diagnosed by my G.P.s for a long time, although [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] he discovered I had a low thyroid. I felt better at once after a low dose but knew I needed more so he put the dose up. [redacted]

[redacted] I was stopped at a dose that showed I was o.k. by bloodtest and was occasionally tested and put up a bit and I felt better but I never went back to the way I felt before. My daughter [redacted] was on a very small dose [redacted]

[redacted] I wanted her to see Dr Skinner who I had heard about. She couldn't go right away so I went with another daughter [redacted] who [redacted] had been told she was at the low end of normal and was not being treated at all. The doctors of both my daughters wrote to Dr Skinner at the time saying in hindsight they should probably be getting more/some thyroxine. This was just because they had to write a letter of referral. My daughter [redacted]'s doctor said he didn't know she had an underactive thyroid. Anyway, we were all put on a higher dose and all felt much better. He took our temperatures, pulses, felt goitres the doctors didn't know were there, noted dry skin and lots of other things. He asked about symptoms such as visual hallucinations [redacted] being too tired to have social life, large tongues, [redacted] I could go on and on –but many, many symptoms which no doctor had ever asked us and which we had been suffering from for years. The G.P.s just go by a blood test which is unreliable and they never take your pulse or your temperature although feeling cold all the time is a well-known symptom. [redacted] she is a new person – she feels she has got her life back. [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] she is ok now and is a changed person. [redacted]  
[redacted] and I both had blood tests months after our treatment – although they had not wanted our dose to go up I was told by the nurse that my results were fine, perfect and [redacted]'s said that they were happy too [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] If you want to know more about clinical symptoms you should read Dr Skinner's book. He must have given life and happiness to countless people that no-one else was able to help due to the reliance on old-fashioned blood-tests which at the very moment of their conception were wrong because the average calculated included people with underactive thyroids (not that there should be undue importance placed on "the average" –everyone is different) Anyway it is high time that Dr Skinner's methods were taught in Medical Schools.

Yours sincerely, [redacted]



5<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
G.M.C  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St James Building  
Oxford Road  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms P Collins

Regarding the fact that on July 2nd of this year, Dr G.R.B Skinner has been asked to appear before a Fitness to Practise hearing for prescribing inappropriately and putting patients at risk. I do not accept this. Dr Skinner helped me to gain back my health after trying for [ ] years to get my former GP to admit there was something wrong with me. I had tests to find out what was wrong including tests for hypothyroidism and was told each time nothing was wrong.

Dr Skinner took into account all my symptoms and clinical assessment and made the correct diagnosis and prescribed Armour Thyroid. In a short while I began to feel better than I had done for years. I have continued to stay that way ever since.

When my former GP finally admitted that I was hypothyroid (and he did) I was prescribed a synthetic form which made me quite ill. I asked for The armour thyroid, I was told the health authority ([ ]) Trust) Did not perscribe this.

Dr Skinner is to my mind an excellent doctor. Both kind and considerate to his patients, very highly qualified and the type of doctor who the NHS Is so sadly short of these days.

I do urge you to reconsider these allegations

Yours sincerely

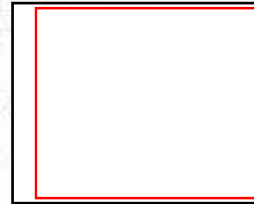
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My address is

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General Medical Council	
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31<sup>st</sup> May 2007.

Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practice Directorate  
GMC 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford St  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ.

**Re: Dr Gordon Skinner**

Dear Madam,

I am writing yet again to support Dr Skinner in his forthcoming 'Hearing'. I hope someone will listen and read it this time as I fear it may fall on deaf ears as many letters that were put in weren't even read by the Panel and neither was Dr Skinner listened to properly at former hearings from what I have read.

I am now approaching retirement age though I was unable to follow my chosen Profession or any other type of work due to my Underactive thyroid being misdiagnosed on several occasions. Due to all NHS Doctors and hospital Consultants over several decades they robbed me of my livelihood and instead I had to battle with disability and the most appalling derogatory comments



You may wonder why I have said all this in my letter of support for Dr Skinner but he was the only one who correctly diagnosed both Clinically and he suggested I get more tests done via a Private laboratory that I did and my results were a staggering  TSH that had been Euthyroid in NHS

I was dying and it was painful.

I take Armourthyroid and DHEA because that what I was short of and am on my feet and have some energy-it took  months for treatment to kick in properly and  yrs to properly get on feet and there have been one or two set backs due to stressful situations that have arisen.

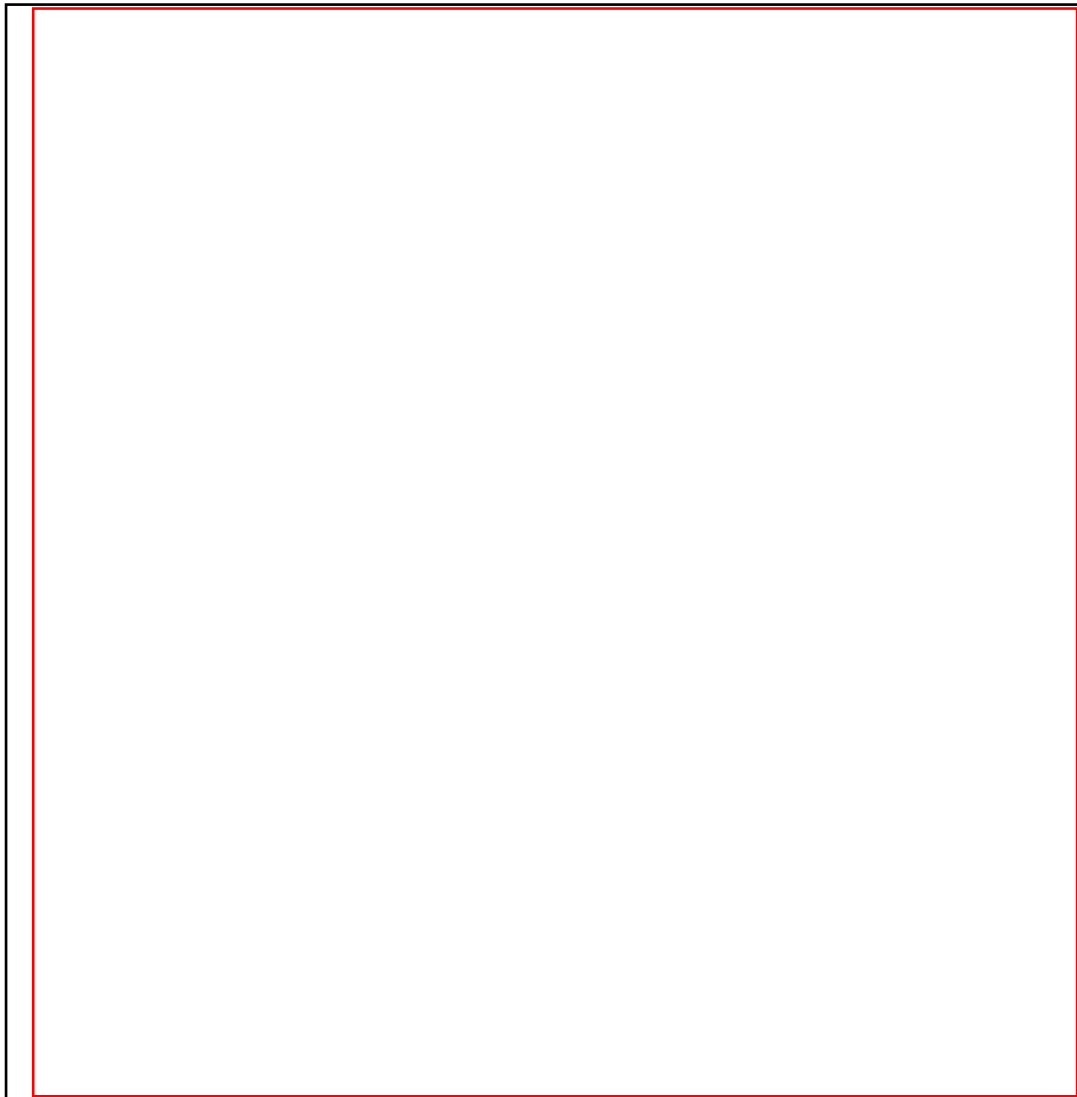


I do hope this enables you all to comprehend what is happening out there in the NHS Medical world. So many illnesses and disability could be avoided, if the art of diagnosis had not been lost to science.

I have to support Dr Skinner due to his kindness in coming to my home free of charge and he was the only doctor who could actually see [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Not one Specialist or GP did this in NHS.







If it had not been for Dr Skinner I know I would be dead long ago and not from suicide either as I was fighting hard to get treatment.

The USA has reduced the reference ranges for Thyroid tests and now the UK is going to widen them well that will keep doctors in jobs won't it and Society very sick. Dr Skinner did say that blood tests were over relied upon and were notoriously unreliable and knowing what I know now I am inclined to agree because symptoms should come first but all doctors do is either ignore them or really are so ill trained that they are clueless.

When I did mention to one GP years ago that it seemed hormonal to me all I got tested for was a different kind of hormone test used to assess menopause, they didn't know that thyroid hormone levels go down too then.

Myself, and thousands of others, have lost faith long ago in NHS doctors, as they seem to have no common sense either or are too arrogant. They are supposed to alleviate suffering but do the reverse.

I tried to get my Armourthyroid within NHS last year just to see if another female GP this time would know how to manage it but she had me back and forth over four months not understanding the blood test results as I was far outside of the range on my usual dosage and with T3 being in it too she tried reducing my Armourthyroid to my detriment and ruined years of treatment and made me ill again-so never will I entrust my health with another GP or any hospital.

[Redacted signature line]



Synthetic Thyroxine is not working for many people.

This did get long and I hope it gets read and that Dr Skinner and any patients who may need him will still be able to as I suspect he really has not committed any crime except to try to facilitate good health.

There are only a handful of good doctors and they have had to go into Private Practice in order to try to treat this type of condition holistically. Our bodies are not text books and human organs need to work synergistically, not in isolation with a variety of Specialisms.

I hope that this does not fall on deaf ears.

Yours Sincerely





06/06/07

Dear Sir or Madame,

I feel I must write to you to lend my support to Dr. Gordon Skinner before his hearing.

I have suffered from [redacted] not feeling well in general for quite a number of years.

I am not one to run back and forth to my GP, but on a few occasions over the years I did go and I underwent a few tests which included thyroid mainly because it ran so ripe through my family. Each time that result came back it was normal on every occasion, and having a lot of respect for the medical profession I had no reason to question the results.

Eventually I was persuaded to go and see Dr. Skinner by my family. So I went and had another blood test which was sent to Dr. Skinner which by the way was normal. I felt I was going to be wasting everyone's time including my own.

I kept the appointment, Dr. Skinner examined me and asked a number of questions. He came to the conclusion I would benefit from thyroid treatment. I was still not convinced but I thought I needed to trust the expertise of Dr. Skinner and go on the medication.

As you probably know the medication was increased over a period of time, and after keeping in touch with Dr. Skinner, he along with my GP increased my dosage.

I must say it made all the difference. [redacted] I do feel a lot better in general and friends and family have commented on how well I look. [redacted]

[redacted] Indeed my own daughter aged [redacted] who has a lot of similar symptoms to myself is also gradually improving thanks once again to Dr. Skinner.



As you can probably imagine I have a lot to thank Dr. Skinner for and I am sure I will not be the only one.

I would ask your board not to take any negative action against Dr. Skinner, but to look at his work more positively and give him a platform to continue his work and help people like myself to have a better quality of life.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

  
  
  
Ms. Patricia Collins  
Investigating Officer  
Fitness to Practice Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5th Floor  
St James' Building  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

**Recorded delivery**

6 June 2007

Dear Ms. Collins,

**Dr. G R B Skinner - Fitness to Practice Hearing 2 July 2007**

I am writing to you in support of Dr. Skinner as he is fighting for his professional life and I as his patient am in danger of losing a competent and trusted doctor.

I have been Dr. Skinner's patient for more than  years now. During this time his conduct and practice have been entirely professional.

Dr. Skinner requested a letter of referral from my GP before the initial consultation.

Dr. Skinner has always written to my GP and communicated his diagnosis and treatment plan - there have not been any complaints in over  years. I always received a copy of the letter written to my GP.

His communication not only with the GP but also with me, his patient, have been exemplary - he will always make the time to listen and answer any questions I may have and explain the treatment he is proposing.

Dr. Skinner is very compassionate, diligent and thorough - he has always carefully recorded my medical history, symptoms and progress at each consultation and could always refer back to these notes.

Since I have been in the care of Dr. Skinner my health has improved so significantly that everyone around me is truly impressed. I would like to point out that I had spent a number of years trying every conventional and alternative medical treatment to no avail before I consulted Dr. Skinner. I was resigned to the fact that I would never feel well again because my blood tests were apparently normal and I was receiving thyroxine.

-/2

I can sincerely say that I count myself extremely lucky to have consulted Dr. Skinner as he has managed to restore my health which has given me back the quality of life I had lost. I as well as my family who have witnessed my recovery are extremely grateful to him.

I can categorically state that my health was never put at risk by Dr. Skinner - on the contrary, he managed to restore it.

As a result of Dr. Skinner's extremely successful treatment of my thyroid condition I have complete confidence in his ability to treat hypothyroidism.

My experience is that Dr. Skinner is a very committed, trustworthy and effective medical practitioner who has always done his utmost to help me get well.

I am concerned as to whether Dr. Skinner is getting a fair hearing as he was not allowed to speak at the IOP hearing on 15 June 2006 [redacted]. I am also aware that Dr. Skinner's request to speak is not recorded in the transcript of the hearing.

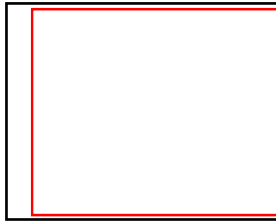
I would consider it an absolute tragedy if the GMC were to restrict his ability to help fellow sufferers who have been failed by the conventional NHS treatment of hypothyroidism.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

cc: Dr. Mark Dudley  
Mr. Ralph Shipway

[redacted]



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5<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins

**Ref: Dr G R B Skinner - Fitness to Practise hearing 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007**

Having recently had reason to consult Dr Skinner again after a longish gap we were appalled to find that he is still under investigation by the GMC and that this matter has not long since been resolved.

After some  years of ill health my wife was at last diagnosed as being hypothyroid by Dr Skinner some  years ago when we were desperate and I could see her slowly dying in front of my eyes. We found Dr Skinner to be concerned, considerate and a fount of wisdom and common sense. He listened to us! Her general health improved but perhaps not as much as we would have liked.







The point of this sorry story is that my wife is still far from well and the only person in whom we have confidence is Dr Skinner. Once again Dr Skinner has listened and advised and we left feeling better and more confident that there could be a successful outcome.

It seems to us that the GMC would be better put to helping improve the service to all patients as the majority of people we speak to are dissatisfied with the present situation which is impersonal and not always helpful. Put your own house in order and stop wasting time persecuting a doctor who has done so much to improve the treatment of a common condition which has for too long been sidelined by the medical profession. We are disgusted that you are still pursuing this matter and hope that reason and common sense may at last take over.

Yours sincerely





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Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practice Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5th Floor  
St James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

4 June 2007

Dear Sirs

**Re: Disciplinary Proceedings against Dr Gordon Skinner**

I feel compelled to write to you in defence of Dr Gordon Skinner.

I comment as follows: I first consulted Dr Skinner in [redacted] I was extremely unwell at that time and had been for many months previously. I had reached a point where my health prevented me from living any kind of a quality life. My symptoms included: [redacted]

[redacted]

I had consulted my GP on previous occasions, and had provided numerous blood samples for laboratory analysis. My GP at that time did not feel that the symptoms were related, all results were simply described as being "within the normal range" and no diagnosis was offered. I was rather made to feel as if I was making up the whole affair

[redacted]

[redacted]

Dr Skinner impressed me from the moment I first met him. My initial consultation with him lasted for nearly one and a half hours and he listened carefully to everything I said. He also observed and examined me with great care and patience. I even talked to him about symptoms which even I thought were probably inconsequential!

Dr Skinner subsequently prescribed Armour Thyroid for me since he felt that I was hypothyroid to a significant degree. I took the medication for a number of weeks,

however, I can say in all honesty that I started to feel better after just a few days,   
 I returned regularly for follow up appointments in those first few months. Slowly but surely, my symptoms disappeared and my life reverted to its normal course.

I now take Thyroxin and Liothyronine as the Armour Thyroid became too expensive and can honestly say that I feel completely well and am able to get on with my life as a direct result of this.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Dr Skinner, (my illness placed such a strain on both myself and my husband that unfortunately our marriage failed). I truly believe that if I had not seen Dr Skinner when I did I would not be fit and happy as I am today.

I have not seen Dr Skinner for a number of years now as I have long since been discharged to the care of my GP but I could not fail to speak out in his defence when I heard of his recent troubles.

I know I am not the only one to have been helped to such a degree as this. If you wish to speak to me further on this subject, it would be my pleasure to assist in any way I can.

Yours faithfully



Without prejudice

Ms P Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
St James's Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ.

5<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

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Dear Ms Collins,

It has been brought to my attention that the General Medical Council are investigating Mr Gordon R B Skinner MD for fitness to practice.

I have been a patient of Mr Skinner's for approximately  years and have received understanding, practical help and most importantly the correct prescription of Armour Thyroid for my disease.

Now having been allowed to have Armour thyroid instead of Levothyroxine (which did not work for me) I am almost back to normal.

To hear the news that I might have to struggle to find a doctor to prescribe Armour thyroid again after years of fighting to be listened to by the medical profession made me physically ill. I am both saddened and angry.


I find it incredible that there are consultants and GP's practicing and not using common sense with their patients, looking rigidly at blood test results and refusing to look at the symptoms presented by the patient. I've had an appalling time with consultants I've seen at [redacted] Hospital and [redacted]. When I went to see Mr Skinner it was like a breath of fresh air. His skill and knowledge are outstanding and to take that away from patients would be a crime perpetrated by The General Medical Council.

I know what my body needs and it needs a prescription for Armour thyroid, my doctor has NEVER heard of it apparently. If this health option is taken away from me, The General Medical Council are condemning me to illness and I will have to consider my position.

Yours Sincerely

[redacted]

CC. Mr Gordon R B Skinner  
Mr R Shipway

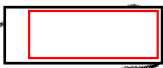

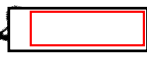

  
Mrs P. Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council  
5th Floor, St James' Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6FA.

6th June, 2007

Dear Madam,

Ref: Dr. Gordon Skinner/Fitness to Practise Hearing  
2nd July 2007

I write, as a patient of Dr. Skinner, with the utmost regard and confidence in his innovative thinking on the management of thyroid disorder.

We currently have a medical system that is failing in diagnosis and adequate treatment of hypothyroidism, thus condemning thousands of people to a difficult life of systemic disorder. I know all too well after  years of misery;  of those years undiagnosed,  inadequately treated with the result of almost losing my life. The last  years under the care



of Dr. Gordon Skinner have been my saving.

Here is a doctor who, through medical experience and meticulous research, has highlighted an enormous and escalating problem in the effective diagnosis and management of Hypothyroidism. His analysis and publication on the subject is outstanding and totally accurate. Worthy of merit.

Dr. Skinner has been brave enough to treat as his research dictates, and has been true to the value of the Hippocratic Oath. He has put the medical needs of his patients before the dogmatic and, in many cases, ineffective conventional regime. The purpose is to help and enlighten.

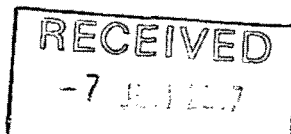
It is devastatingly disheartening for Dr. Skinner and the general public that such a valuable contribution to the advancement of medicine is now in question. I implore you to look at the underlying problem in the general management of this condition and recognise the courage of one who stands apart with such a valuable contribution.

Yours faithfully,

6 June 2007

Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor St James's Building  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

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**Ref: Fitness to Practise Case Against Dr Gordon Skinner on 2 July 2007**

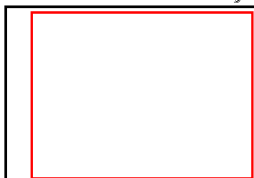
I am very surprised and somewhat distressed to learn that Dr Skinner has been asked to attend the above hearing.

When I was suffering from hypothyroidism a few years ago, and was not responding at all with my prescribed levothyroxine alone, I contacted Dr Skinner on recommendation and have not looked back since. He made a significant positive difference to my state of health (and mind), solely by diagnosing and treating my symptoms and not just treating the T3 and T4 test results (as GPs tend to do). He recommended Armour Thyroid which I have been taking ever since and have been completely stabilised.

I have nothing but praise for Dr Skinner who has always been professional and thorough during my consultations, and without his treatment would probably still be suffering now.

I sincerely hope that the outcome of this case will be in his favour in order that he can continue to practise so other sufferers can benefit from his expertise.

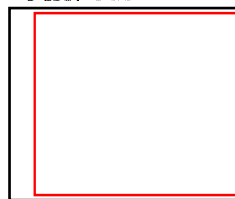
Yours sincerely



Ms. P. Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James Building  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ  
0191 252,



Mrs. Susan Anderson

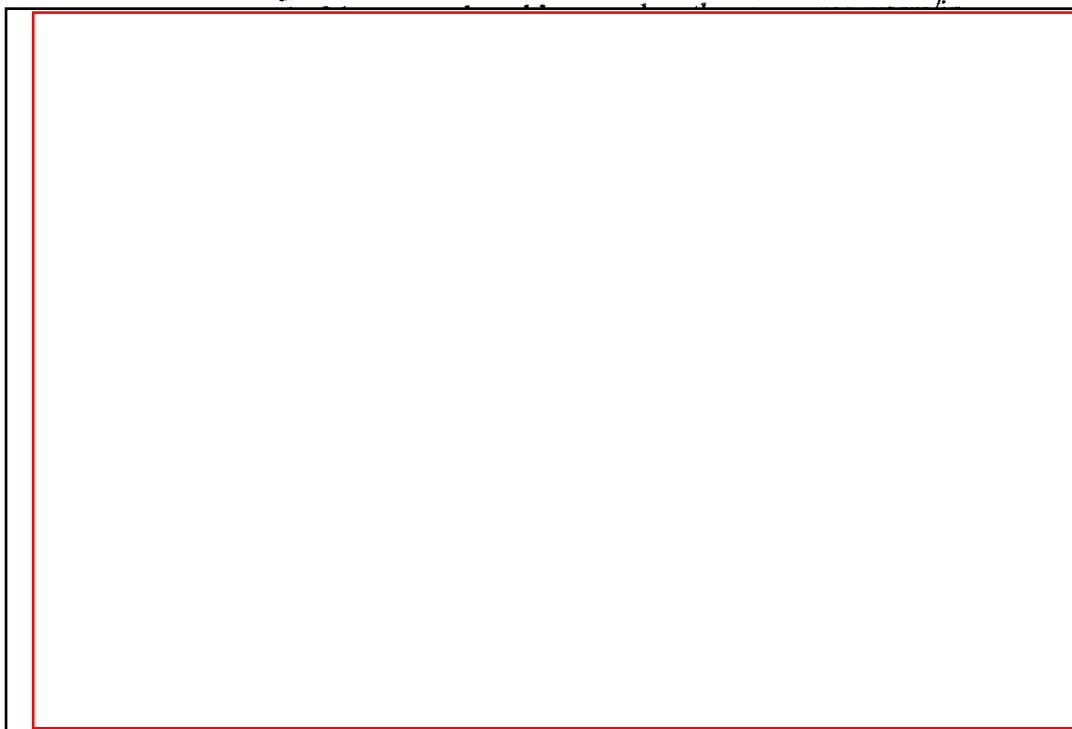


4<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Dear Ms. Collins,

I understand that Dr G.R.B. Skinner is having to attend a Fitness to Practise hearing of the General Medical Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007. I am writing in support of the diagnosis, treatment and care given by Dr Gordon Skinner in respect of my thyroid condition.

I was unwell for [redacted] years from [redacted]. [redacted]  
[redacted]. My signs and symptoms  
included [redacted] [redacted]



On a number of occasions I asked my GP if I could have my blood tested for an under active thyroid as I felt the symptoms fitted this condition, particularly my extremely low body temperature. My GP arranged for blood tests to be carried out but I was informed my thyroid was functioning normally.

I arranged to see Dr Skinner following an article in "InterAction" (ME/Chronic Fatigue publication) regarding his work with patients whose chronic fatigue may be the result of undiagnosed hormonal conditions. I first saw Dr Skinner in [redacted]. [redacted] I was extremely impressed by the very thorough medical history and examination carried out. I was also overwhelmed by the concern and understanding shown as well as the explanation of the signs and symptoms I had been experiencing during the previous few years. A diagnosis of an underactive thyroid was made and medication was commenced. The dosage was minimal on commencement and gradually increased during the following year. I have been regularly reviewed by Dr Skinner - [redacted] monthly at first and now yearly to monitor my condition. I have thyroid blood tests carried out every [redacted] months.

On commencement of medication my symptoms diminished over the coming months so that a year later I was almost back to my previous state of good health. My strength and stamina continued to improve over the following year as I was able to increase physical activities. I now lead a busy and fulfilling life again. I am working three days per week [redacted] [redacted] - something I never imagined I would be able to cope with physically or mentally a few years ago.

I feel extremely fortunate that I have been able to receive excellent medical treatment from Dr Skinner. By taking a detailed medical history as well as consideration of my thyroid blood results, a diagnosis of an under active thyroid was made and appropriate treatment given. Without this diagnosis and treatment my health and lifestyle would have deteriorated further with serious consequences.

I appreciate and understand that blood investigations are important in reaching a diagnosis but to diagnose the condition solely on blood results without taking into account the patient's signs and symptoms does not give a holistic picture of the patient's condition and the effects on his/her life. Despite the fact that I had many classic signs and symptoms of the condition and despite my TSH level being slightly raised and my FT4 being 11.2 (near the lower end of the range) I was seen as not having the condition. Since my diagnosis and treatment many people have contacted me for support and advice in trying to obtain diagnosis and treatment having similar histories to myself. I continue to be shocked by the medical histories of people whose lives are being ruined by a failure to gain a diagnosis of hypothyroidism and receive appropriate treatment as well as those not being given adequate treatment to resolve their symptoms due to diagnosis being made solely on blood investigations.

I am shocked and extremely upset to hear that Dr Skinner's medical expertise is being questioned and that he is being subjected to a Fitness to Practise hearing in July. Myself, along with so many others have had their health and lives transformed as a result of his diagnostic skills and appropriate treatment of thyroid conditions and his desire to ensure all his patients achieve their optimal health.

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted signature box]

cc Dr. G. R.B.Skinner, Mr. R. Shipway, RadcliffesLeBrasseur, Westminster

Dr Mark Dudley MPS  
33 Cavendish Square  
London  
W1G 0PS

7<sup>th</sup> June 2007

The Case For Dr G R B Skinner

Dear Dr Dudley,

It is exactly [ ] years ago this month, that I was fortunate enough to start my treatment for Hypothyroidism with Dr Skinner, and it would not be an exaggeration to say that he saved my life.

I had suspected for some time that I was Hypothyroid but it had been dismissed by my GP's for several years. One GP said " you would be all hairy if you had it". Of course the opposite is true.

The months previous to meeting Dr Skinner, I was in a very sorry state indeed, [ ]

[ ]

[ ] Basically, I had decided that I could not go on living with the pain, and was seriously thinking of suicide.

A friend alerted to me to a campaign in a Ladies magazine by Diana Holmes, and through this article I met Dr Skinner. Through blood tests and clinical diagnosis he concluded very quickly that I was indeed Hypothyroid. Today I am a fit and healthy [ ] year old, [ ]

[ ]

My only problem now is that I cannot get the treatment on the NHS from my GP, as they refuse to agree with the diagnosis, even though I am still within the normal range on the blood tests.

In conclusion if the Tribunal finds against Dr Skinner, We will be losing one of the most highly qualified and respected Doctors this country has ever produced. His work as a Virologist is World-renowned. For myself and for those patients not fortunate enough to have met Dr Skinner the future is very bleak, and the GP's of this country and the GMC need to open their eyes to the prejudice that surrounds this disabling condition. MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS.

Yours sincerely,

[ ]



[Redacted]

7<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Dear Patricia Collins,

Thanks for agreeing to send me information on Dr Gordon Skinner's case, though it now seems that I had been misinformed and that there was in fact no hearing in February, merely a postponement. There will thus be nothing for you to send. That being the case, I would merely like to add this letter to the documents you have received on the subject.

[Redacted] we are all very concerned at the action being taken by the GMC regarding Dr Gordon Skinner.

Although I have not myself been treated by Dr Skinner, several [Redacted] have and all state that their health is much improved as a result. Indeed, the phrase "he has given me my life back" is one we are used to hearing.

A typical history would be where someone has been ill for years with the classic symptoms of an underactive thyroid, yet his or her physician has either not made the diagnosis (usually on the grounds that the blood test results are within the 95% reference range) or, having made the diagnosis, has failed to bring about any improvement with treatment by thyroxine alone. The patient may well have seen an endocrinologist, to no avail.

In such cases, we would advise an appointment with Dr Skinner as he can be relied on to determine whether or not there is a thyroid problem, and to treat it effectively if need be.

Ideally, we would prefer it if proper treatment could be had locally at the GP's office or by the nearest endocrinologist, but so long as this is not available we have no hesitation in recommending Dr Skinner. If he is deemed unfit to practice, despite his outstanding record of successes in this field, then what hope is there for those for whom the current guidelines are of no help?

Yours sincerely,

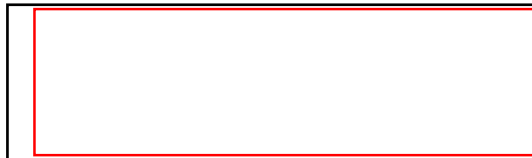
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

cc: [Redacted]

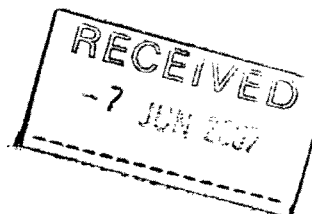
Ralph Shipway, RadcliffesLeBrasseur, 5 Great College St., Westminster, London SW1P 3SJ  
Dr Mark Dudley, MPS, 33 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0PS





WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester M1 6FQ



Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Copied to: Dr Gordon R B Skinner; Mr. R Shipway

Re: Fitness to Practice Panel - Dr. Gordon SKINNER - Ref No. 0726922

Dear Ms. Collins,

I am writing to express my deepest concern regarding the allegations that have been brought against Dr. Gordon Skinner, resulting in the above-referenced Fitness to Practice Panel.

*To be specific, I fear for my wife's wellbeing should the successful treatment Dr. Skinner has prescribed for her be suspended for any length of time. Given that the treatment prescribed by Dr. Skinner is the only useful treatment that has ever been prescribed in my wife's case, I also feel that it would be a great injustice if he were prevented from helping other patients, especially since the treatment provided to my wife by other practitioners prior to Dr. Skinner's assessment, was wholly ineffective.*

To provide further detail:

After the condition went undiscovered over the course of many years of assessment, my wife –  – was eventually diagnosed with Hashimoto's Hypothyroid Disorder back in .

Following diagnosis, but prior to visiting Dr. Skinner for the first time almost  years ago, the only useful aspect of the (sorry excuse for) treatment provided to my wife by other consultants, was that it enabled us to prove that the Levothyroxine they had prescribed for her was undeniably useless in making her feel better.

Dr. Skinner was the first medical practitioner to take my wife's symptoms into consideration, in context of her blood test results (as opposed to looking only at her blood test results), and in prescribing Armour Thyroid, he completely changed not just her life, but the lives of everyone around her for the absolute better.



I might also add that for many months before booking an appointment with Dr. Skinner, [redacted] had been asking her GPs and her assigned endocrinologist, about the possibility of a T3/T4-combined Armour Thyroid trial, as all of our independent research suggested that this would succeed where Levothyroxine had been failing.

Dr. Skinner's successful treatment of [redacted]'s condition began with the thorough research of her history, and a thorough examination, accompanied by a genuine sense of sympathy and (for the first time in her quest for appropriate treatment) an honest desire to improve her overall condition, and not just change the T3 and T4 count in her blood.

His recovery plan for [redacted] saw the gradual introduction of Armour Thyroid, so as to negate the risk of her thyroid condition becoming overactive/Hyperthyroid.

At all stages of [redacted]'s treatment, Dr. Skinner maintained correspondence with [redacted]'s GP, and in addition to face-to-face consultations (of which only two were required), he has readily and willingly provided support and advice over the telephone.

[redacted]'s current prescription of Armour Thyroid means that she is once again living a full life. Nothing else has changed that could have caused such a dramatic improvement. She is energetic, motivated, quick of mind and healthier in body than I have ever known. In short, I am just one of the many people who are thrilled to have this beautiful woman back to enrich our lives, and we owe much of that to Dr. Skinner.

To that end, Dr. Skinner's treatment of my wife has been professional, responsible and always in her very best interests. His prescription of Armour Thyroid is entirely appropriate and he has not once placed her at risk.

If anything, Dr. Skinner should be commended.

Whilst I have done my best to preserve Dr. Skinner's right to practice, whatever the outcome of this panel, I need to know that my wife's prescription will not be disrupted. Any gap in the supply of her medication would be akin to a death sentence. [redacted]

[redacted]

I implore you to make sure, that whatever the outcome of this panel, [redacted] be allowed to continue her Armour Thyroid treatment without interruption. It has proven to be a life-changing and - in many respects - life saving treatment, and I am confident that this is the case for many other patients who have sought help from Dr. Skinner.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]



3 June 2007

Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practice Directorate  
General Medical Council  
St James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins,

I am writing a letter of support for Dr Gordon Skinner as I am aware he is due at a Fitness to Practice Hearing on 2 July 2007.

I have been a patient of Dr Skinner since [redacted]. I had been suffering from classic hypothyroid symptoms for years but at the end of [redacted] these had begun to interfere with my life to such an extent that I sought help from my GP. I had not been aware of what hypothyroid symptoms were but have had to educate myself to improve and maintain my health as I have found that the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid problems on the NHS is at best difficult and at worst frustrating and depressing. If I had heard once more that my test results were "normal" I would have screamed! I don't know many normal people who have to wear umpteen layers of clothing on a summer day!

To cut a long and familiar story short for many people who shared my problem, [redacted]

[redacted] I was at my wits end I decided to contact Dr Skinner and saw him in [redacted] at his clinic in [redacted]. I had just stopped working as I could no longer function [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] At the first consultation with Dr Skinner I felt that finally someone was listening to me and after 1 hour 45 minutes Dr

Skinner felt that my symptoms and signs were pointing to hypothyroidism and so he suggested starting me on Thyroxine at mcg and building it up slowly until I reached an optimum dose. I am currently on mcg of Thyroxine and mcg of Liothyronine and whilst I still have days when I don't feel great I have been able to return to my job

There was a point when I thought I would be unable to return to work at all.

I am still consulting with Dr Skinner as he is trying to help me get back to feeling 100% or as near it as I can be. It would be an absolute nightmare if Dr Skinner was to lose his licence and how many people would have to go through the same soul destroying experience as myself and many others and not at least get the chance of trying to help themselves get well. People, to whom I have related my experience, have been astounded at the lack of willingness of the medical profession to at least give patients a trial of Thyroxine when their signs and symptoms are very close to those of thyroid problems, but as I told them, I would not have believed it either except it happened to me and at times it was like being in a farce except it is not funny when it is happening to you!

I believe Prof. Weetman has said that "there is no single test to diagnose thyroid disease" which is a great turn around for him. I just hope the rest of his colleagues catch up soon and stop the witchhunts against those who have dared to take a stand against the accepted wisdom, which in light of many thousands of people seeking help from doctors such as Dr Skinner, is somewhat flawed and needs researching.

Yours sincerely

Ralph Shipway  
Dr Mark Dudley



4<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

Ms P. Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James's Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ

Dear Madam

I would like to offer my support for Dr. G. Skinner at the fitness to practise hearing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2007.

From [redacted] to [redacted] I felt that I had no "quality of life" [redacted]. I had consulted my G.P. many times over the preceding years to try to establish the cause of my illness but to no avail.

I saw an article on Dr. Skinner's work and was fortunate to be able to see him on the [redacted]. He had asked for my thyroid profiles from my health centre and these showed that the results indicated an under-active Thyroid. Dr. Skinner immediately started me on a progressive course of Thyroxin and Amour Thyroid medication. [redacted]

[redacted]. Life was and continues to be worth living...

Dr. Skinner in my eyes is a "saviour" and not just to me, but too many other very sick people. Without his expertise, I and several of his recovered patients would have taken their own lives. He has always treated his patients with the utmost professionalism and has always asked for regular thyroid blood tests to monitor this condition.

I fervently wish for Dr. Skinner a positive and successful outcome at this hearing, particularly, [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Patient of Dr. G. Skinner.

c.c. to Dr. G. Skinner  
to Mr. R. Shipway, RadcliffesLeBrasseur,  
5 Great College Street, Westminster,

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[REDACTED]

5 June 2007

Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practice Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
MANCHESTER M1 6FQ

General Medical Council	
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Dear Patricia Collins

**Re: Dr Gordon Skinner - IOP 2 July 2007**

My wife suffered with hypothyroidism for [REDACTED] YEARS !

But her Blood Test results indicated 'Normal'.

Despite her displaying a catalogue of symptoms characteristic of the illness, her GP as a consequence refused her appropriate treatment.

This cannot be right, can it? There has to be something wrong with the present NHS guidelines to GPs if these result in a prime slice of someone's life being ruined - entirely unnecessarily.

All that was required was adequate doses of Thyroxine! And a doctor who diligently examined her history, carried out a thorough examination, took account of the Blood Test results and then acknowledged the obvious indications of the variety of symptoms which my wife displayed and gave her the appropriate treatment: Dr Skinner.

Both she and I are totally indebted to him. But not just us: our daughter as well. And, as we have discovered in recent times, countless others, who have regained healthy lives as a result of his care.

Alter the hypothyroid blood test guidelines now.

Give credit to Dr Skinner for the diligent, professional and caring way he has helped - and continues to help - *thousands* of hypothyroid sufferers. Do not let his fitness to practice be threatened by allegations about just *four* patients!

Do not let the best interests of his many grateful patients be put under threat by these four allegations. The health of those many patients is at risk of harm - as they revert to their earlier years of ill-health - if he is prevented from continuing his professional care of them.

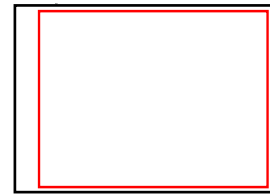
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

c.c. Mr Ralph Shipway, RadcliffeLeBrasseur  
Dr Mark Dudley, The Medical Protection Society

[REDACTED]





5<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins

**RE: Dr Skinner, 22 Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham**

I understand there is to be a Fitness to Practise hearing regarding Dr Skinner on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July and as a patient of his since 2000, I felt I had to write in his support.

For almost [ ] years before a colleague recommended I go and see Dr Skinner, [ ] periodically prescribed [ ] by a number of GP's. It is only since taking Armour Thyroid (prescribed by Dr Skinner) that I have felt well [ ] [ ] and managed to change my life around.

I have tried taking synthetic forms of thyroxin, but they did not work as well (It didn't include either T3 or T4). I am monitored by my GP, and have regular blood tests, which I keep Dr Skinner informed of.

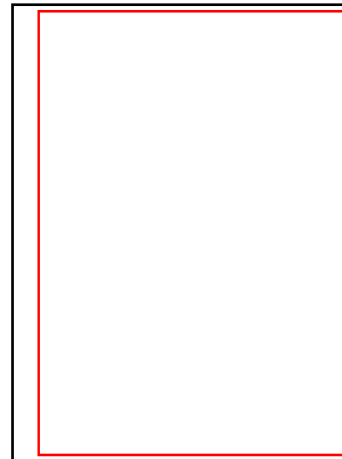
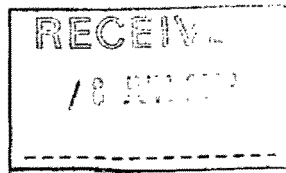
I am most concerned that there is question that Dr Skinner is behaving in any way other than in the best interest of his patients. I believe Dr Skinner works in a way that is most professional and without his help I am certain that I would still be feeling terrible and being a much bigger burden than I currently am on the NHS.

Kind Regards



cc Dr Skinner  
Mr R Shipway ✓

Ms P Collins  
Investigation Office  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M16FQ



Cc Dr Skinner, Cc Mr R Shipway

Date as postmark

Dear Ms P Collins

It is with regret that we have to write this letter, we are both stunned and alarmed the Dr Gordan RB Skinner has to attend a 'Fitness to Practice' hearing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July this year.

Having been under Dr Skinners care for years [redacted]  
[redacted], we strongly feel compelled to write to you.

Dr Skinner has always been very attentive to our health, monitoring, advising and providing treatment with the up most professionalism for hyperthyroidism. Our GP's are fully informed of our treatment and we are 100% satisfied with our thyroid management. We choose to receive treatment from Dr Skinner and will continue to do so until he retires.

Going into details of how our diagnosis and treatment has transformed out lives (obviously of major importance to us), we feel is not the issue here, the issue is that without Dr Skinners help we are at least two of countless others who for the main would have continued to be misdiagnosed.

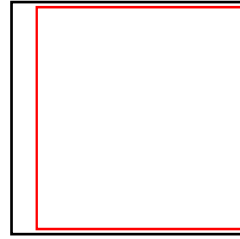
We would therefore like to offer our full support to Dr G RB Skinner and hope this matter is resolved quickly so he can continue to provide excellent treatment for his patients.

If you require any further details of our cases please do not hesitate to contact us at the above address or phone numbers.

Yours Sincerely



(Mother and daughter)



5<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Ms. P Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
St James's Buildings,  
79, Oxford Street,  
Manchester, M1 6FQ

Dear Ms. Collins,

Re: Fitness to Practise Hearing – Gordon R B Skinner MD (Hons) DSc FRCPath  
FRCOG.

I write in support of Dr Skinner because his treatment of me over the past few years has improved my quality of life to the point where I feel heavily in his debt. It is not clear to me in what way he could possibly be deemed unfit to practise. He has been rigorous in monitoring my response to the levels of thyroid replacement that he has prescribed, both in my visits to his clinic and in telephone conversations, frequently at his instigation. He has been conscientious in keeping my General Practitioner informed of changes in my treatment, and my response to such changes. He has always treated me with the care, consideration and courtesy that one might expect from a private practitioner, but without the excessive fees which one associates with such a situation.

If this hearing goes against Dr Skinner the GMC will be depriving his patients of an effective and (in practice) extremely safe treatment for the distressing symptoms of hypothyroidism.

Yours sincerely,

cc. Dr Skinner  
Mr R Shipway

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03.06.07

Dear Ms. Collins,

I write regarding the Fitness to Practise hearing of Dr. Gordon R. B. Skinner on 02.07.07. I find it very hard to believe Dr. Skinner's professionalism and integrity are in question.

I have been attending Dr. Skinner's [redacted] Clinic for almost [redacted] years and I bless the day I found him. My own G.P. had been treating me for depression - I was taking [redacted] at the time - and I just didn't know what was wrong with me, [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] On my first visit to Dr. Skinner in [redacted] during a lengthy consultation, I was diagnosed with Hypothyroidism. This diagnosis did not really surprise me as there is a family history of hypo. and hyperthyroidism. I had had several blood tests from my G.P. which all came back borderline. Unfortunately G.P.'s are only interested in lab. results, they don't seem to take physical symptoms into consideration. (In my opinion this is an ①

area which needs to be addressed and awareness raised.) [redacted]

[redacted] My personal feeling was I was slowing down so much I was heading for a comatose state. I don't think I would be alive to-day if it wasn't for Dr. Skinner.

Can I give you a rundown on my medication since [redacted]?

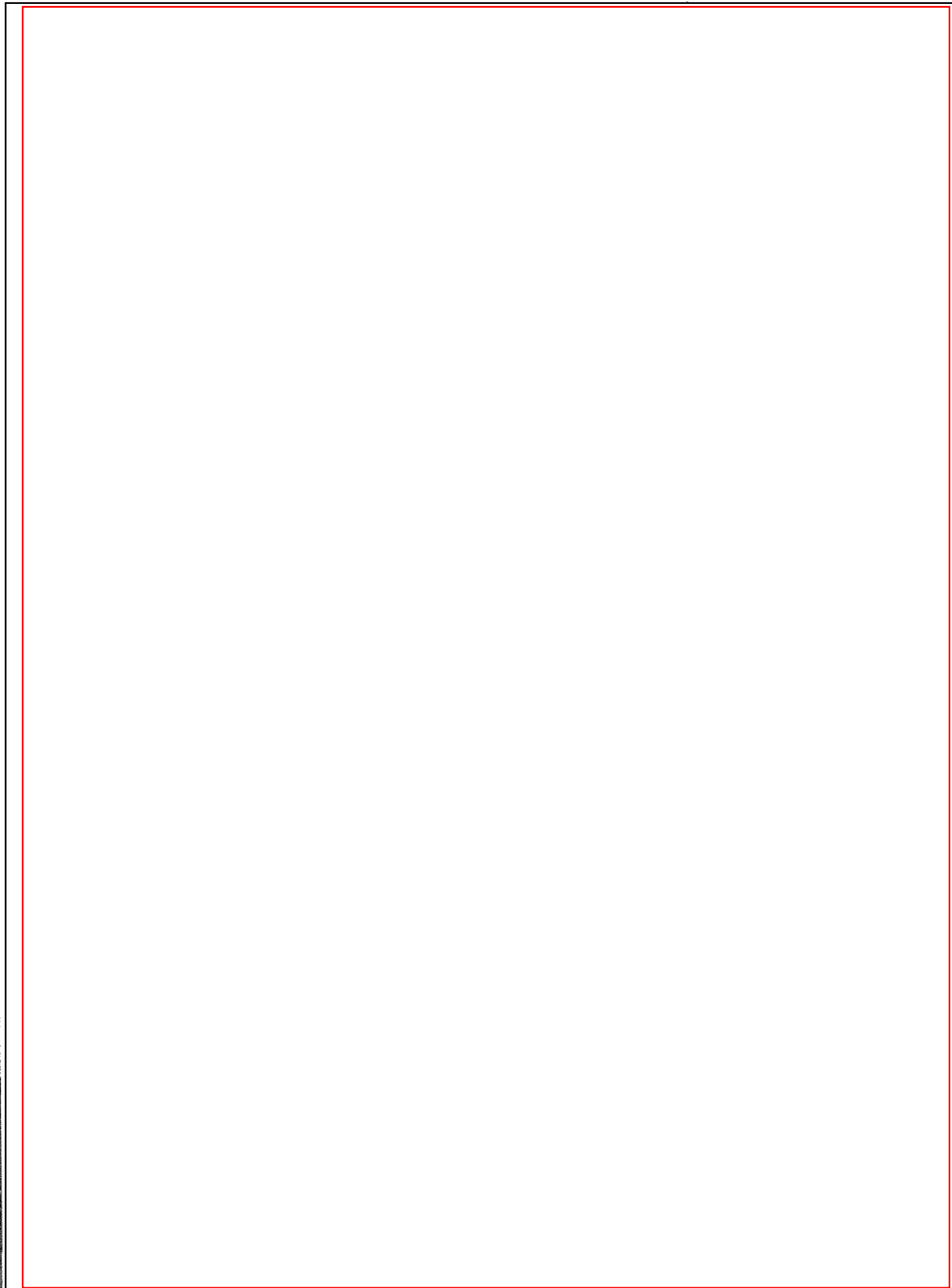
I really got my eyes opened when I compared my "before" and "after" questionnaire, the difference is quite remarkable.

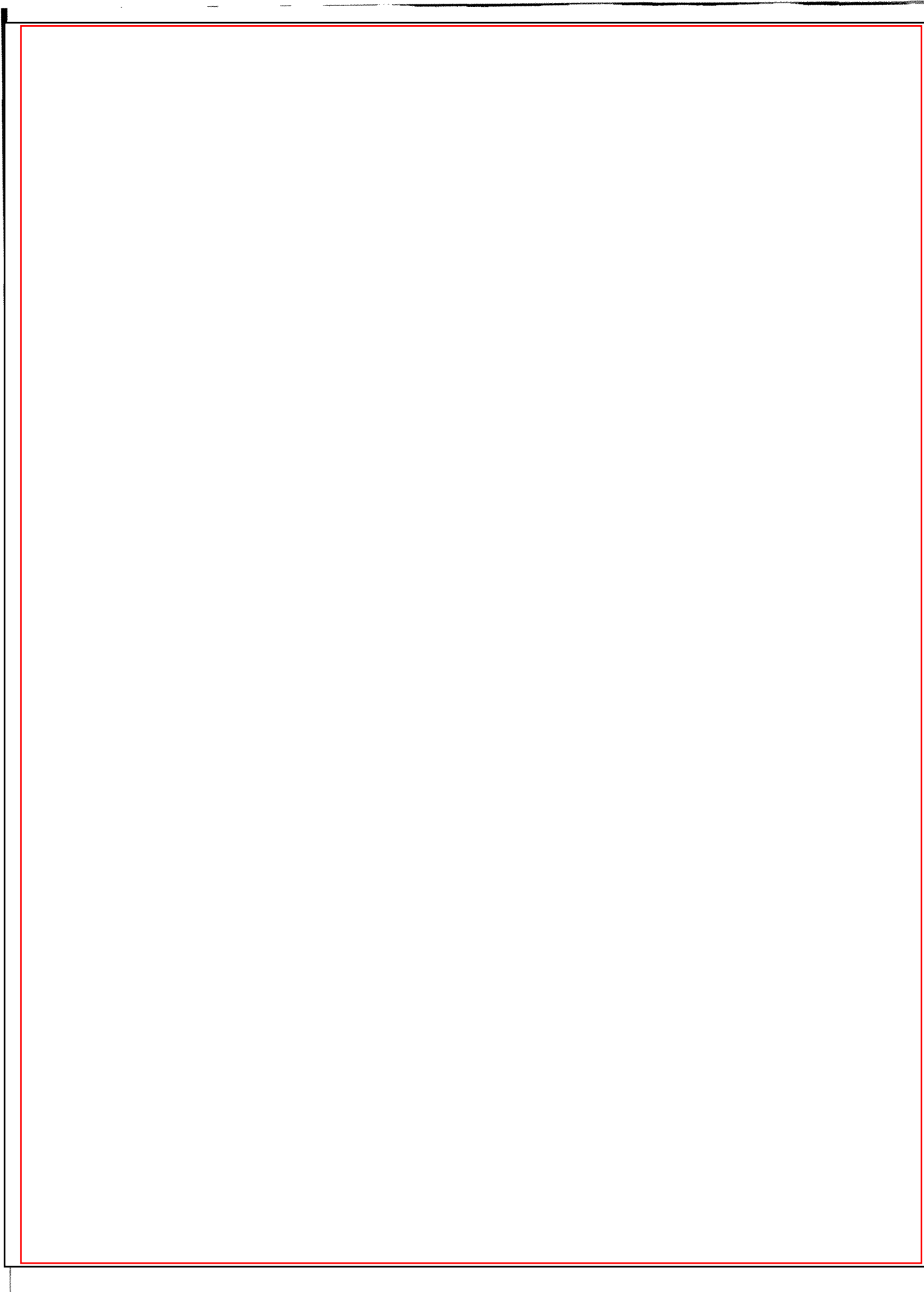
If you require any more detail please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,









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5<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

Dear Mr Todd,

I am writing to express my disgust and anger at the way Dr Gordon Skinner, [redacted] is being treated. A Fitness to Practice hearing is currently scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2007.

Here is a doctor who is actually trying to do his best for patients and, more to the point, helping many of them to become well after years of indifferent treatment by the NHS. Now he is being targeted by the GMC, which appears to have completely lost sight of what its own guidelines are regarding the treatment of patients – to mention but three; make the care of your patient your first concern; listen to patients and respect their views; respect the right of patients to be fully involved in decisions about their care.

The NHS adopts a short-sighted, dogmatic, one-size-fits-all approach to the treatment of hypothyroidism, refusing to consider alternatives from the wider range of treatment options that are available, and condemning patients to a significantly reduced quality of life. In many cases, when patients fail to get well on the restricted treatment that is dished out they subsequently get diagnosed with a chronic fatigue illness as well.

[redacted]

I am a hypothyroid patient, also diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome, and for the past [redacted] years have received what can only be described as a completely lack-lustre service from the NHS. I have encountered doctors whose attitudes have been unsympathetic, dismissive, disinterested, who have treated me like I'm a major irritant and been given the distinct impression that I have no right to be an informed patient who wants to play an active role in her treatment. (Informed, I would add, not through any thanks to the NHS, but because I have done a lot of research and reading myself). I feel that the last [redacted] years have, as a consequence, been even more of a struggle than they needed to have been, and I am fast reaching the point where, if I want to stand any chance of getting well, I shall have to abandon all hope of the NHS helping me achieve this and see a private Doctor.

From all that I have read about Dr Gordon Skinner – patient testimonials refer to him having given patients back their lives after years of indifferent treatment by the NHS – he would certainly be my first choice of who to consult. I just hope I still have this option available to me.

Yours truly,

[redacted]

*This is a copy of the letter sent to my MP,*

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]  
06/06/07

Dear Sir or Madame,

I feel I must write to you to lend my support to Dr. Gordon Skinner before his hearing.

[redacted]  
[redacted] I realized that with so much thyroidism in my family, perhaps my own thyroid was not functioning as it should.

Although my own GP thought my blood results were fine she was quite happy for me to be referred to Dr. Skinner who had been introduced to me by a close relative.

After a consultation with Dr. Skinner he concluded that I had indeed an underactive thyroid, and he prescribed Eltroxin.

Since then ( almost [redacted] years ago ) I can honestly say I have continued to improve.

My own GP has been very supportive but Dr. Skinner's help and advice has been invaluable. I continued to keep in touch with him every few months when he advised how to adjust my dosage of tablets according to how I was feeling.

With the result that, at present I feel great, more in control and better able to cope with my two children.

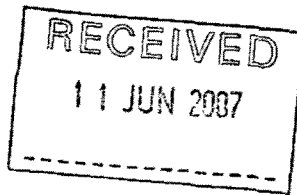
I cannot speak highly enough of Dr. Skinner and knowing that when I do contact him with my blood results, he actually listens to how I feel rather than what the results say!

I am the third member of my immediate family to attend him with thyroidism and my brother has just recently been diagnosed with an underactive thyroid by Dr. Skinner too.

In fact at present I am in the process of arranging for my husband to see him as well, because having read one of Dr. Skinner's books, I believe he too is showing signs of thyroid malfunction.

So in conclusion I think it is an absolute disgrace that Dr. Skinner should even be asked to attend this hearing. Perhaps if we had more doctors willing to really listen to how patients feel then maybe the NHS could actually save time and money in some cases.

Yours sincerely,



Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ



10<sup>th</sup> June 2007

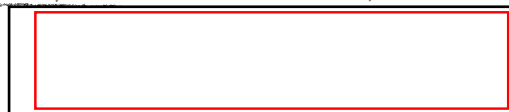
Dear Miss Collins

**Re: Leter of Support for Dr Gordon R B Skinner**

Some years ago I was diagnosed and successfully treated by Dr Skinner. His treatment has had a very positive impact on my health and my life.

My General Practitioner took over responsibility for prescribing and monitoring the thyroxine as recommended by Dr Skinner and continues to do so.

I am happy to support Dr Skinner as he helped me so much. I would like to see his methods adopted as the rule rather than the exception to the rule.



Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James's Building  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

General Medical Council	
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7<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Dear Ms Collins

RE: Mr Gordon RB Skinner

I am writing to you with regards to the above Doctor.

☐ years ago in ☐ I battled with several illnesses of being unwell, on many many occasions I visited my own GP to be told I was 'imagining things' and 'don't be silly there's nothing wrong'. ☐

☐ You can imagine my frustration with this. Knowing there was something not right with me, but never being treated for what I really had.

I visited another doctor in the practice (at that time with a back problem) who asked 'have you had your thyroid checked' it took me by surprise .... I said 'no' and it went from there. I started to visit Mr Skinner soon after.

From this point forward, once Mr Skinner had got my medications balanced to suit me, I went from strength to strength, my health improved and today my life is now normal. I have visited Mr Skinner on many occasions for a general health check up since and all is well with me. Mr Skinner provides me with my prescription and communicates with my new GP.

I have visited my new Doctor many times regarding Mr Skinners treatment; it is just a courtesy check up to make sure all is ok. He also says 'how much happier I am and how well I look'

I have never felt so well or been in such good health.

I have nothing but great admiration for Mr Skinner and all his team for their work into the many problems that comes with a malfunctioning 'thyroid'.

Yours sincerely





10 June 2007

Dear Ms Collins,

**Re: Doctor Gordon Skinner**

I wish to write in support of Dr Skinner in the light of his impending "Fitness to Practise" hearing.

I'm very surprised and dismayed that the GMC has seen fit to treat Dr Skinner in this way. I suffer from an under active thyroid and was referred to Dr Skinner by my NHS GP  years ago at my request. My health has improved dramatically as a result of Dr Skinner's treatment.

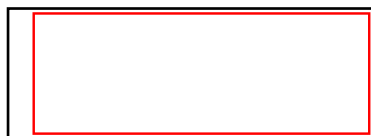
I really do fail to see what is to be gained from treating Dr Skinner in this way. He has made me well. I believe he has made many others well who suffer from my condition. Why could this not have been done in the NHS? My condition was misdiagnosed many times. I've lived in several locations in the UK over the past  years and at each surgery specific signs were missed. Wouldn't it be much better to plough money into a wider range of thyroid drugs and training NHS doctors to treat this condition properly rather than pursuing doctors who cure their patients of this condition?

Please understand that any anger that may be evident in this letter is not directed at you personally. It is merely the result of years of illness and misdiagnosis by NHS doctors. I'm really tired of being a "thyroid fugitive", searching for doctors who understand this condition and are brave enough to treat it.

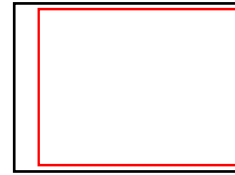
I do hope you'll listen to my voice and, I'm sure, the voices of many others like me in your dealings with Dr Skinner.

With best intentions,

Yours sincerely,



Ms P. Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James's Buildings,  
79, Oxford Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ.



10<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

Dear Ms Collins,

**Dr. Gordon Skinner**

I have been informed that the above named is being asked to attend a Fitness to Practise hearing before the G.M.C. on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

I would like the panel to be aware of the help Dr. Skinner has given my wife, [REDACTED]. She has been seriously ill for [REDACTED] years. During that time she has attended numerous specialists none of whom were able to halt her decline.

[REDACTED] is under the continuing care of Professor [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. She was diagnosed with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome and M.E.

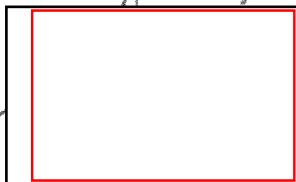
One of the doctors in the Professor's team realised that, despite having "normal" blood tests, she was hypothyroid. She went to see an endocrinologist privately and was told there was nothing that could be done for her. Professor [REDACTED] made an appointment for her to see an N.H.S. endocrinologist. Unfortunately the appointment was postponed. With her health deteriorating, she felt that she was unable to wait any longer. I made an appointment with Dr. Skinner after obtaining clearance from her GP.

At the first appointment he took a detailed history of the illness and concluded that she was hypothyroid. He prescribed Thyroxin.

For the first time, there was an improvement in her health, which is continuing. Professor [REDACTED]' team has acknowledged the positive change and has not raised any objections to Dr. Skinner's treatment. They also informed [REDACTED] that she had never had [REDACTED]. She had always been hypothyroid.

Dr. Skinner's help and advice has been invaluable and I hope that he will be able to continue to practise.

Yours Sincerely



Cc Dr. Skinner.

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10<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

Ms P. Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James's Buildings,  
79, Oxford Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ.

Dear Ms Collins,

**Dr. Gordon Skinner**.

I am writing to express my concern over Dr. Skinner being asked to attend a Fitness to Practise Hearing on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

I have been disabled for many years and am under the care of Professor [redacted] at the [redacted]. I was diagnosed with [redacted]. One of the doctors there realised that I was hypothyroid despite a FT4 level just within the reference range. I went to an endocrinologist privately but was told that because my blood test was normal, nothing could be done for me. Professor [redacted] made me an appointment with an N.H.S. endocrinologist. When that was postponed, I went to see Dr. Skinner.

It is painful now to remember how serious my illness was at that time. I was in a severely weakened state, unable to look after myself, work or take part in any kind of normal life. [redacted]

Since Dr. Skinner began treating me my health has improved greatly. Professor [redacted] and his team have followed my progress and never suggested that any change be made to Dr. Skinner's choice of prescribing. I was told at the hospital "You never had [redacted]. You were always hypothyroid."

Dr. Bill Reith of the Royal College of General Practitioners has said that being hypothyroid "is a disease where it is crucial that the doctor treats the patient and not the blood test result ." I have endured years of unnecessary illness because this is so often forgotten .

I am one of many thousands of patients who have recovered our health because Dr. Skinner has considered our symptoms . He has made my life worth living again . I hope that he will be allowed to continue to help others.

Yours sincerely ,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]

Cc Dr. Skinner .

Ms P. Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practice Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St James Building  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester M1 6FQ

Tuesday, 12 June 2007

Dear Ms Collins

**Re: Dr Gordon Skinner**

It has been brought to my attention that you are investigating Dr Skinner. I am appalled that this should be the case, and am writing to support him in the strongest possible terms.

Without Dr Skinner's advice, I would be unable to function in any normal way. [redacted]

My health had deteriorated steadily over a period of several years. Although I had clear physical symptoms of hypothyroidism, because blood levels of TSH and T4 were "normal", the obvious diagnosis was dismissed. Eventually, my GP faced with signs

[redacted] referred me to the Endocrinology clinic in [redacted]. On the basis of blood tests there, I was given a diagnosis of "[redacted]" and sent away with no further help or advice.

[redacted]

I was fortunate at this point in reading a book about hypothyroidism. As a result of that, I persuaded my GP to refer me to Dr Skinner, [redacted]

[redacted]

Dr Skinner spent over an hour with me on my first consultation, taking a very careful history, checking my pulse and blood pressure – almost the first time that any doctor had taken the trouble to do that.

From that day on, I have steadily recovered. Finding the exact level of medication that works for me took some time since Dr Skinner has always been conservative in suggesting increases in dose, and vigilant in looking for signs of over-medication. Now, I am a new person. [redacted] Once again I am self-sufficient, able to contribute to society - and to the Exchequer!

I do not know why I need relatively high levels of thyroid hormone in order to feel well. Perhaps I am one of the 2.5% of people who would *always* have had levels *above* the 95% confidence limits of the distribution of results that constitutes the reference range; or perhaps there is some biochemical disorder of uptake which has not yet been characterised. Blood tests are a very useful guide for the majority of sufferers, but they are not the whole story. They should be considered along with clinical signs and symptoms – as Dr Skinner does.

I am well aware of the danger of over-medication. I would be perfectly happy for any clinician to examine me and look for any signs of over-medication, blood tests aside.

Without Dr Skinner, a significant number of people, including me, would be condemned to a life lived at a very low level; he should not be criticised for successfully treating patients in a way which differs from the medical establishment. Some patients need a different approach - please do not deny us that right.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]



Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

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6 June 2007

Dear Ms Collins

I have recently heard that you are to hold a "Fitness to Practice" hearing of the GMC to assess Dr. G R B Skinner. I was shocked at this news and feel compelled to write to you and highlight the way in which Dr Skinner has improved my quality of life.

My metabolic consultant who wrote to my GP and recommended Eltroxin mg once per day first diagnosed my hypothyroidism. This consultant who I was attending primarily for my  told me that the tablets would control the symptoms and an annual blood sample would confirm control. Despite the symptoms continuing and getting progressively worse the consultant did not deviate from the management plan provided above. I went to my GP who increased the amount of Eltroxin to mg per day but did not explain anything about the condition.

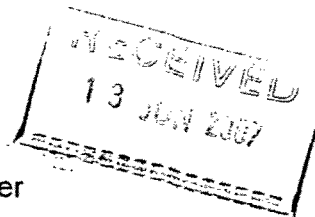
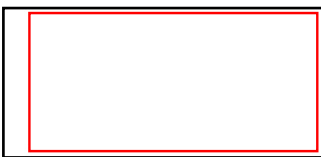
My aunt found out about Dr Skinner and his work with hypothyroid patients and I first attended his clinic in  in . My initial appointment lasted about 1 hour and during this time I learnt more about the condition than had ever been explained before. Dr Skinner undertook and wrote to my GP and informed him of his findings and a new management plan was agreed following their telephone conversation.

I started the combined treatment of Eltroxin and Armour Thyroid as recommended by Dr Skinner and in about  weeks I felt the benefit. After  months on this new treatment I was once again in control of my health. I attended Dr. Skinner's clinic in  on  other occasions and I now have my blood checked periodically with my GP. Should I lose control of my condition I am aware that I can be referred back to Dr Skinner or I can contact his clinic directly myself.

I am a patient who likes to understand what is happening to me and I have now a basic knowledge of FT4, T3 and TSH readings. Dr Skinner is responsible for allowing me to understand and control my hypothyroidism and he has always worked in conjunction with my GP. He has always taken account of my diabetic control when he was reviewing my overall health.

I have nothing but praise and appreciation for Dr Skinner and the way he has given me my life back. Through him I know that it is "not all in my head". I am appalled to think that this doctor is facing a charge of fitness to practice and can only wonder why such a charge could have been brought. Please ensure that this is dismissed for the greater good of his patience both present and future.

Yours faithfully



To whom it may concern  
Letter of support for Dr Gordon Skinner

Dear Sirs

I wish to offer my support for Dr Skinner.

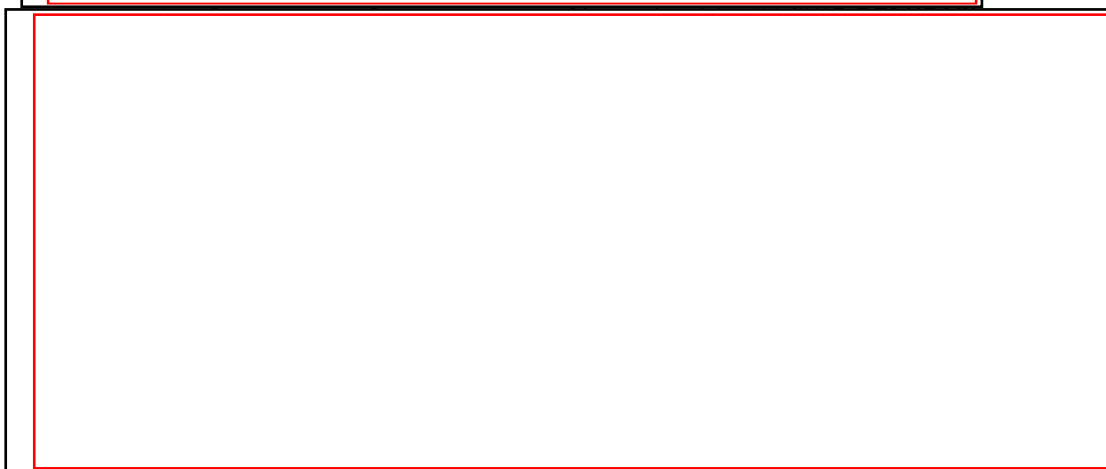
I found Dr Skinner by accident.

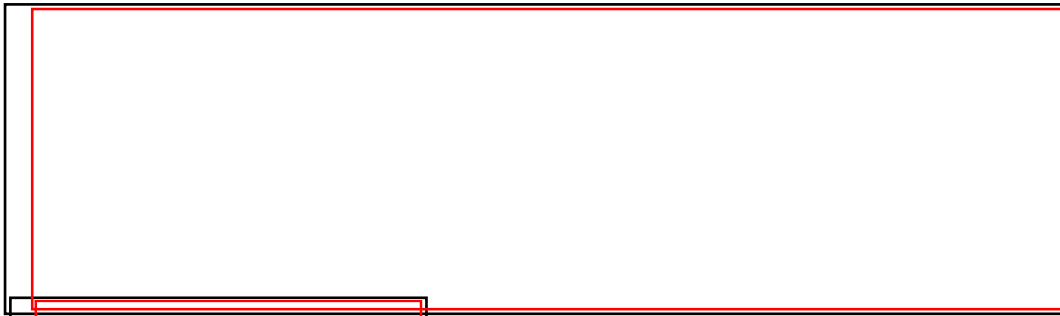
I was ill and becoming sicker during the [redacted]s and attended my GP on numerous occasions with a litany of complaints. I was referred for a range of tests but they always came back "inconclusive" – these ranged from blood tests for thyroid, anaemia, early menopause etc. [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] I was also referred to a thyroid clinic. A junior doctor at [redacted] stated that I was borderline "thyroid" – disappeared to speak to a consultant and returned to say that this was not enough to prescribe medication.

I continued to return to my GPs. My work referred me to Occupational Health GP who stated that she felt ( without compromising my GP) that I "sounded" as if I had an underactive thyroid and that I should continue to consult GP for tests.

By [redacted] I was writing a typed list of illnesses/complaints than ran to 2 pages. I could not remember all the symptoms that I had when I visited the GP and tried to summarise these in writing. I was tearful, passive without energy and unable to challenge or persist in treatment. [redacted]





 I contacted Diane Holmes and went to see Dr Skinner.

Dr Skinner tested me on numerous occasions – blood tests for thyroid, and a range of other tests including diabetes (I have a grandfather with history of diabetes). He was thoroughly professional and very careful with the management of my treatment.

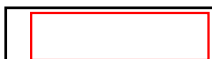
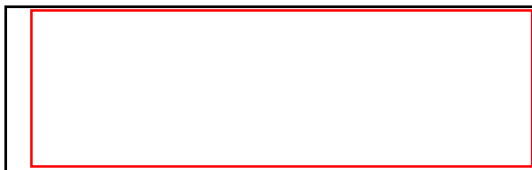
I was prescribed thyroid medication – and this was managed very conservatively – low dosage - and I had repeated follow up visits to monitor my body's response. At no point was Dr Skinner prescribing inappropriately and putting me at risk. I continue to consult Dr Skinner.

I do not believe that Dr Skinner was unfit to practice. I really feel that Dr Skinner saved my life, my relationship with partner and my ability to continue in work.

I have referred 2 work colleagues to Dr Skinner who I felt could be helped. I would not do this if I had any concerns regarding Dr Skinner.

I believe that these allegations are completely unjustified.

Yours faithfully





14 June 2007

Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate,  
General Medical Council,  
5th Floor,  
St James Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins,

I was upset to hear that Dr G R B Skinner has been asked to attend a Fitness to Practise hearing of the GMC.

I was fortunate enough to meet Dr Skinner at a time when all other medical treatment had failed to help me. At the time of seeing Dr Skinner, [redacted], I had 'no quality of life'. [redacted]

I have been ill since [redacted] with ME and I was not diagnosed until [redacted] years later by Professor [redacted], Neurologist, whom helped me a little.

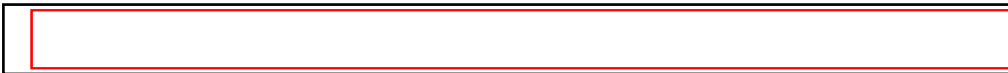
Since seeing Dr Skinner for the last [redacted] years I have shown improvement [redacted] Dr Skinner gave me hope where none existed. I now have some quality of life, for which I am eternally grateful.

If Dr Skinner is not allowed to practice anymore, will you please advise me what programme the medical profession have in place that will offer the same treatment as Dr Skinner? My experience has shown me the NHS has nothing to offer me!!!

Yours sincerely,



Cc Mr R Shipway RadcliffesLeBrasseur, 5 Great College Street,  
Westminster, London, SW1P 3SJ

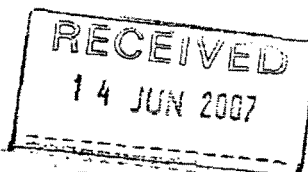




Patricia Collins  
Investigating Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St James Building  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6NQ



8th June 2007



Dear Madam

**Re: Dr Gordon Skinner's Fitness to Practise Hearing – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007**

I have just read about Dr Skinner's public hearing scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007 in respect of his treatment protocols and would like you to submit this letter, as supporting evidence in favour of Dr Skinner's case

I am writing this letter to share with you my experience of dealing with Dr Skinner and the impact of his treatment upon my general well being and quality of life.

My first consultation with Dr Skinner was in [redacted], at his surgery in [redacted]. At the time, I was extremely ill and had been so for approx. [redacted] having gradually deteriorated over this time. My quality of life was very poor. [redacted]

[redacted]

During this time, I was taking [redacted]mcg thyroxine daily, which I had been taking for [redacted] years. I repeatedly visited my GP over this period, had several blood tests, and was told by my GP that there was nothing wrong with me [redacted]. [redacted] I was [redacted] just feeling very ill and hopeless.

At this stage as a last hope, I started to research my hypothyroidism on the web and began to realise that my symptoms and illness may be due to my hypothyroidism being under treated.

I contacted Dr Skinner and was informed that I would require a referral from my GP before Dr Skinner could consult with me. I immediately contacted my GP and requested a referral to Dr Skinner.

At my consultation, Dr Skinner spent approx 1 hour listening to my symptoms, asking questions about my lifestyle, medical history and examining me before finally reviewing the blood test results, I provided. (My TSH was [redacted])

This was the first time in years that a doctor had actually listened and heard what I said and acknowledged my symptoms. I was so relieved, I cried when Dr Skinner stated that he could help me and I would get better.

Dr Skinner stated I was being under treated and suggested I should increase my thyroxine very gradually over a period of months to help me to find the correct level for me. He managed my expectations very clearly and stated it would be likely to be about 6 months or so before I was fully better and explained the benefits of gradual therapy. (I wanted to increase rapidly as I felt so ill)

I started increasing the thyroxine gradually as prescribed by Dr Skinner in [redacted] and had another consultation in [redacted] when we reviewed progress. Dr Skinner regularly updated my GP after our consultations.

My symptoms began to reduce from about [redacted] weeks and gradually over the next few months disappear completely.

I now feel better than I have done for a long, long time and am truly thankful to the grace of God and Dr Skinner for helping me get my life back! – this sounds dramatic, but is very true. I feel the young woman that I am rather than the old woman I felt.

Overall, my experience of dealing with Dr Skinner is that he is a professional, with extensive experience in dealing with thyroid disorders and a genuine desire and *commitment to help patients recover to optimal health and lead a full life.*

My treatment and medication are now managed by my GP in conjunction with an annual consultation with Dr Skinner primarily to provide me with reassurance that I am still continuing to be treated effectively and am not likely to regress – something which I fear.

[redacted]

I would like to appeal to yourself and others who are involved in Dr Skinner's hearing to consider this letter and my experience and review any allegations with this in mind and the subsequent consequences for hundreds/thousands of patients like me.

I am happy to speak you personally or provide further details or answer questions should you require.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

[redacted]

Ralph Shipway, Radcliffes Le Brasseur, 5 Great College Street, Westminster,  
London, SW1P 3SJ

Dr Mark Dudley, MPS, 33 Cavendish Square, London, W1G 0PS

Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5th Floor  
St James's Building  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ



14/6/07

**FAO Ms P Collins**

Dear Ms Collins,

I would like to write in support of Dr Gordon Skinner, of [redacted]

In [redacted] I became very ill. I was an extremely fit young man [redacted]  
[redacted] and overnight was struck down by an unknown virus.

[redacted]  
My GPs and local hospital initially ignored me when all blood tests came back as "normal". [redacted] however this did not explain why I was still severely disabled and suffering from a variety of symptoms. After many tests, all "normal" I was diagnosed as having [redacted] and told nothing more could be done for me.

It was then I started to research matters for myself and discovered the possible link between M.E. and thyroid dysfunction. I read about Dr Skinner and decided to contact him.

My GP at the time did not support this decision. But then, it had been made clear by the entire panel they did not support any outside help. [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] My life, however, was slipping away and it was important for me to find help.

I contacted Dr Skinner in, I think [redacted], and, thank God, he agreed to see me. After a long consultation, blood tests and physical exam, he diagnosed hypothyroidism. I decided, under Dr Skinner's supervision, that I should try a low dose of chemical thyroxine and started taking [redacted] mg tablet.

My GP was initially interested in this and prescribed the tablets for me, but after consultation with her superiors changed her mind. She then told me if I were to take thyroid medication when my blood tests were "normal", it would kill me. At that stage I would have tried anything and continued with the treatment. Very slowly I began to feel the benefits and increased the dose of thyroxine until, some years later, I now take [redacted] mg a day of chemical thyroxine. My thyroid function tests are still "normal".

Some [redacted] years on I am still not back to full health, but if it had not been for Dr Skinner's help I would still be in a wheelchair and have no life at all. During his treatment I have tried armour thyroxine which helped me through various bad episodes but overall I do not need to take this medication.

Nowadays it is an accepted fact that I suffer from hypothyroidism and I have had my thyroxine supplied by my GPs surgery with no problems at all. My blood is checked on a regular basis and all results are always "normal".

Without Dr Gordon Skinner's help and understanding I would still be very ill. He is a great doctor and I am appalled there is any question about his 'Fitness to Practise'. Nowadays the patient is often ignored in the face of science. Symptoms which used to diagnose an illness are often overlooked when a blood test is available. Thankfully Dr Skinner take an holistic approach and looks at the problem from all angles and diagnoses with all the information he has, not just figures on a piece of paper.

Once again I give Dr Skinner my full support. He is a great man and I would have no hesitation in recommending him to other suffers. I have indeed sent another M.E patient to him, but his diagnosis was that she did not have a thyroid problem.

I can only hope this 'investigation' into Dr Skinner highlights not only his genius but the shortfalls of the current thyroid testing system and the stubbornness of the medical profession in general.

Yours faithfully



10<sup>th</sup> June, 2007.

Ms. P. Collins, Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor St. James's Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester M1 6FQ.

Dear Ms. Collins,

Re: Dr. Gordon Skinner's Fitness to Practise Hearing, July 2<sup>nd</sup>

I understand that Dr. Skinner's fitness to practise is under question by the General Medical Council, and that he has been asked to attend a Fitness to Practise hearing next month. As a patient of his since  for the treatment of my hypothyroid condition, I am writing to you to register my support for him in his practice.



began to look into the subject, and learned that blood tests do not necessarily pick up a milder thyroid condition, and that the most sensitive test is something one can do oneself - take one's temperature first thing in the morning, before getting out of bed, for three days running. If it is under par each time, then the thyroid is underactive.

After this I went my NHS GP for a blood test and sure enough was informed that on the basis of this evidence I did not have a thyroid condition. That is how I came to consult Dr Skinner. The Armour Thyroid he prescribes for me has solved the problem.

He is punctilious about monitoring me, and I visit him every  years and have regular blood tests at my GP practice. I am therefore mystified as to why his fitness to practise is under question.

General Medical Council

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14 JUN 2007

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Yours sincerely,





GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL	
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11/6/07

Dear sir/madam

I am writing to you in support of Dr R B Skinner who through his persistence and attention to detail has returned me to health.

Approximately  years ago I became very unwell and was unable to perform at work or home. Over the next period of  months I visited my GP several times and was referred to an endocrinologist who confirmed that I did have a slightly under active thyroid gland but that this was of no significance and that my problems were in fact  Several months and several hundred pounds later, my health was in fact deteriorating. Eventually I was referred to Dr Skinner when my previous consultant had said she could do no more for me! It was very worrying to be told that at  and with my health worsening.

On my first consultation with Dr Skinner I was given a very thorough examination and my blood results were carefully analysed. Dr Skinner then diagnosed me with an under active thyroid and started me on a very low dosage of thyroxin which he slightly increased, several times, until my symptoms started to improve.

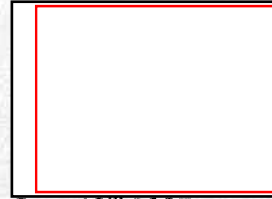
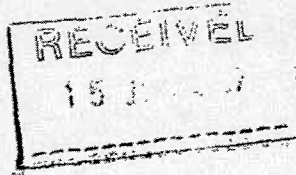
I feel incredibly let down by the NHS and, in fact, the private consultant I has seen previously (also a practising NHS endocrinologist) if I had not been referred to Dr Skinner I dread to think how I would be now. Dr Skinner has continued to see me periodically and is very observant and thorough in my ongoing treatment. I hope you can see that Dr Skinner is an irreplaceable doctor regarding the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid problems and I hope that he will be allowed to continue to help other people like me,

Yours sincerely





copies  
To Dr. Skinner  
Mr. R. Shipway



June 13<sup>th</sup> 2007

Dear Ms Collins

I felt compelled to write this letter to you, in support for Dr. Skinner, who has been treating me, and many of my family, for an under active Thyroid condition.. Prior to consulting Dr. Skinner . I was always visiting my G.P. many times over the years. always feeling unwell, [redacted] I knew there was something seriously wrong with me, [redacted]

[redacted] Never really having any quality of life. To this day, the Doctors tell me there is nothing wrong with my thyroid function and one endocrine specialist at [redacted] Hospital even diagnosed me with [redacted]

[redacted] I must stress that without the wonderful support and professional care of Dr. Skinner. I know that I would not be here today to tell you this story. Please help Dr. Skinner, I plead with you. because I dread to think what will happen to the likes of us, without his care, who else will treat our symptoms' and not the blood test,

The life I have now at [redacted] is by far the best I have experienced than all my earlier years, and I never want to return to those dark times, [redacted] this can only be contributed to Dr. Skinner and the wonderful care he has given me.

How can the G.M.C have any doubt about Dr. Skinner right and fitness to practice . and who will help us to get our prescriptions for thyroid replacements, If you need you contact me I would be delighted to help in any way I can..

I leave my life in your hands, yours sincerely

[redacted]



June 14<sup>th</sup> 2007

R R H Shipway  
Radcliffe Le Brasseur  
5 Great College Street  
London SW1P 3SJ

Dear R R H Shipway,

**Dr G.R.B. Skinner**



**General Medical Council  
Fitness to practise**

**Bolam test**

**Bolam v Friern Hospital Management Trust <1957> 2 ALL ER 118, 121**

In this case His Lordship agreed that (in the context of the medical profession) negligence 'means failure to act in accordance with the standards of a reasonably competent medical men at that time'.

His Lordship continued, 'A Doctor is not guilty of negligence if he has acted in accordance with a practice accepted as proper by a responsible body of medical men skilled in that particular art... Putting it the other way around, a doctor is not negligent, if he is acting in accordance with such practice, merely because there is a body of opinion that takes a contrary view'.

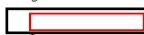
Used no less than three times in the House of Lords re:

Whitehouse v Jordan (1981) 1 All ER 267 - treatment

Maynard v West Midlands Regional Health Trust (1984) 1 WLR 634 -diagnosis

Sidaway v Bethlem Royal Hospital Governors (1985) 1 ER 643 - disclosure of information

Dr. Skinner uses the skill gained over the last one hundred years on the diagnosis and treatment of Thyroid disease, up held by the Dr. Broda O. Barnes Institute in America. Dr. Barnes being the research physician who discovered the T1, T2, T3, T4 and other aspects of Thyroid purpose, plus refined the assessment of base body metabolism using the axial temperature of the human body. 'A proper and responsible body of medical men' for in the United States procedure has to be correct or a Court case ensues.

Without Dr. Skinner's skill in the treatment of sub clinical thyroid disease I consider I would be dead, death due to myxedemic coma. For two years prior to my  treatment by Dr. Skinner I was fast deteriorating in health. Since the above appointment Dr. Skinner has shown the utmost care in my treatment, a care that the National Health Service is derelict under the contract I have with this 'agency' to care for my Health.

RECEIVED  
16 JUN 2007

**Treatment regime** – Dr. Skinner carried out a methodical and careful examination of my person, *(note: sheet of paper on my hands, body temperature assessment; blood was drawn for analysis; Heart rate and stethoscope to audit my heart; the ever present hand lens)*; in addition asked a lot questions. I

[redacted] I exhibited to Dr. Skinner a, 'bench mark document' namely a copy of a haematological report from [redacted] at which Dr. Skinner replied that the results showed I was a Thyroid disease patient.

Dr. Skinner informed me I was suitable for treatment, and would try a three-month trial of Armour desiccated thyroxin. In no way did he force medical products upon me – I had to write and ask him, I realise now Dr. Skinner is a very busy person due to the utter incompetence of alleged, 'endocrine consultants' employed by the National Health Service (N.H.S). Within a short time of being medicated I was feeling so much better, [redacted]

[Redacted]

What is it I am required to say or do to prevent the unfair prosecution of Dr Skinner?

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]



13 June 2007

Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St James Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

Dear Mrs Collins

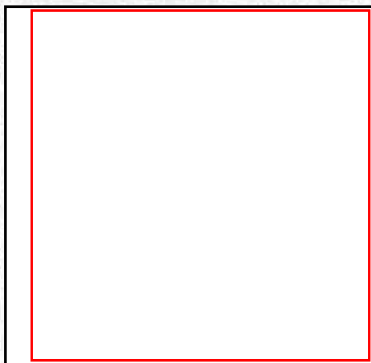
I would like to register my support for Dr Gordon Skinner in advance of the Fitness to Practise Hearing of the General Medical Council on 2 July 2007.

I learnt of Dr Skinner through a friend and asked to be referred in ☐. He has helped resolve a long standing medical problem for which no solution could be found.

I have been more than happy with Dr Skinner's treatment. He sees me on a regular basis and always liaises with my G.P. I have regular blood tests, feel well on my present medication (thyroxine and armour thyroid) and have no wish to lose this life enhancing improvement.

In conclusion, I would like to think that Dr Skinner could carry on with his excellent work for as long as possible without hindrance.

Yours sincerely



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General Medical Council	
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Ms P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

Dear Madam

I am alarmed to hear that Dr GRB Skinner is being investigated by the GMC.

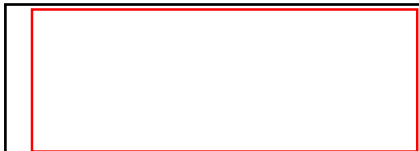
Prior to being privileged to come under the care of Dr Skinner my symptoms were either ignored by my GP, categorised as resulting from an earlier diagnosis of MS, or deemed to be symptoms of depression.

Dr Skinner was the first clinician to take the time to catalogue my symptoms and to question the earlier diagnosis of  a position now taken by other medical personnel. After being on thyroxine for a few years I now have no symptoms

I will always be extremely grateful to Dr Skinner for being brave enough to look at my symptoms rather than blindly relying on blood tests; the quality of my life has been drastically improved. If I had not been strong willed enough to resist other members of the medical profession, or fortunate enough to find Dr Skinner I would no doubt now be on  with no improvement in my symptoms.

I think it is a sad day for us all when the medical profession is more willing to castigate a member than to sponsor some research into an area that affects perhaps thousands of patients.

Yours faithfully,





12. 06. 07.

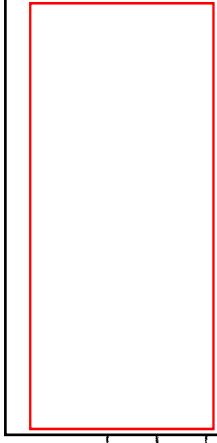
Dear Patricia Collins

re: Dr Gordon R.B. SKINNER

I am one of Dr Skinner's patients and would like to place on record that I always found him to be kind, helpful and professional in his manner.

I shall always be grateful to him as I spent several years with severe health problems which Dr Skinner diagnosed and treated. He has given me my life back.


Yours Sincerely

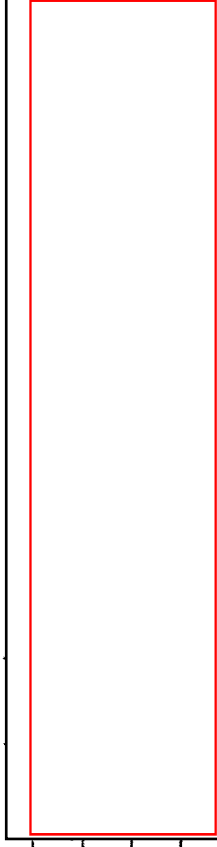


14.6.07

Dear Ms. P. Collins,

I am writing to you regarding my treatment for my thyroid problem by DR. SIKHNER.

My story:-  after collapsing at work I was admitted to hospital and finally diagnosed with N.E (Chronic Fatigue). I presume because all blood tests were within "normal range". I was advised to go home and look after myself! (I could hardly stand up at this time)



[redacted] went along to an M.E. meeting where someone suggested all members should have a thyroid blood test and as my mother and grandmother had problems I asked my G.P. for a test. She informed me that I'd had a test previously but it was in the "normal range" but she sent me for the test. This time it came back "below normal" so I was prescribed thyroxin. After starting to feel a little better [redacted]

[redacted] they reduced my thyroxin and all symptoms returned [redacted]

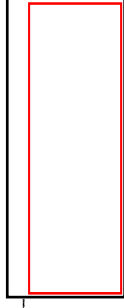
[redacted] By this time I was depressed by ill again and a friend asked me to read "Tears Behind Closed Doors" by Diana

Holmes. I ticked the check list of symptoms leaving out only one. Dr SKINNER was mentioned so I made an appointment to see him. He has increased my thyroxin and has gradually added Armour thyroid and T3. I'm now 99.99% better. My only problem is worry in case someone takes my medication and the support of Dr SKINNER away from me.

I found Dr SKINNER to be the most supportive, interested and professional Dr through all of my illnesses. He actually considers my opinion and how I'm feeling as a person not a number or blood test. Without him and his treatment I may not have survived.

Yours

Sincerely



[Redacted]  
Ms P. Collins,  
Investigating Officer,  
General Medical Council,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
St James's Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ

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Dear Madam,

13<sup>th</sup> June 2007

**Fitness to Practise Hearing – Dr Gordon R. B. Skinner**

**I write regarding the above in support of Dr Skinner and to protest most strongly against such a hearing.**

**As one of his patients I feel very strongly about the way he is being treated by the GMC. I am someone who was dragging herself around, more dead than alive, and with a history of 5 other female family members with thyroid problems. I was considered not to have a problem with thyroid by other members of your profession because my blood test results fell within what the NHS have decided to be 'normal'. Dr Skinner's opinion that I did have many of the symptoms of an under-active thyroid and the subsequent treatment he prescribed has improved the quality of my life beyond all measure.**

**I can only repeat that I am amazed at your treatment of him. Perhaps you should spend more time looking at the far more dangerous prescription of drugs such as statins with their dreadful side effects, and the suspect promotion of them by the drug companies.**

**I am also writing to Her Majesty the Queen regarding this Fitness to Practise Hearing.**

**Yours faithfully,**

[Redacted Signature]

**Ccs: Dr GRB Skinner**

**Mr R Shipway**

[Redacted] **MP**

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Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer,  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester, M1 6FQ

1<sup>st</sup> June 2007

Dear Ms Collins

I am writing to express my dismay and disappointment regarding the Fitness to Practice case against Dr GRB Skinner on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007. Dr Skinner is a very thorough, highly professional and competent doctor. He is meticulous in his history taking and examination, and is very sensible in his treatment thereafter. He communicates at length with his patients' GPs, the majority of which then take over the treatment and monitoring. Why would they do this if they didn't agree with the treatment prescribed?

The issue of treatment for hypothyroidism is a complex and controversial one. The current blood tests used to diagnose such dysfunction are inaccurate as they vary in one person every 30 minutes. It is not feasible for a patient to have blood taken and analysed every thirty minutes. Many patients are therefore misdiagnosed, as the average doctor in the NHS these days performs what I call 'doctoring by numbers'. They are incapable of taking a detailed history or examination; either that or they simply do not have time.

I remember my one and only appointment with an endocrinologist in the NHS. He did not bother to ask me my history or symptoms. [redacted]

[redacted] and despite having [redacted]  
[redacted] all the symptoms of hypothyroidism and borderline blood results, treatment was not offered and I was discharged. They didn't even have the courtesy of monitoring me over a length of time, as antibody levels often get worse and eventually lead to blood levels of thyroid hormones decreasing to a level that even NHS doctors may treat. If doctors actually forgot about blood tests for one moment and looked at the patient, examined them thoroughly, obtained a detailed and accurate history, this would tell them all they needed to know. 'Doctoring by numbers' – i.e. using blood tests to diagnose everything, is not only a very lazy way of performing their duties but also a very dangerous and incompetent way.

Compare this with the first appointment I had with Dr Skinner. He went into meticulous detail about my symptoms, how long I had had them etc. This took one hour; compared to a total appointment time of 15 minutes with the NHS endocrinologist. He then proceeded to examine me and concluded that I did indeed have hypothyroidism. He proceeded to write these findings in a



letter to my GP and started me on low doses of thyroxine. All precautions and instructions were given to me and I felt reassured for the first time in [ ] years that someone had actually not only listened to me, but taken me seriously. Since then I gradually began to feel better and at this time my GP prescribes my medication and performs regular blood tests. I go to Dr Skinner if there are any changes in my symptoms or I want a check up with him.

Unfortunately it is not only patients who present clinically with hypothyroid symptoms but have normal blood tests which are not treated effectively on the NHS. Many patients who do have decreased blood levels of thyroid hormone, are treated with minimal levels of thyroid replacement hormone and remain very unwell. I have been on many websites and read a lot of testimonials of patients that face these problems. If doctors like Dr Skinner were not here for us, who would we go to? Who would help us to keep well and at work? The cost to the benefits system and NHS would be appalling. Many of us would love to be able to go to NHS doctors and not have to pay to go privately. In fact I am sure that Dr Skinner himself would also like this to happen. The question should therefore not be about Dr Skinners' competence, but the incompetence of these other doctors.

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Dr Skinner is a competent, thorough and professional doctor. I am in a good position to judge this, as I have worked with all levels of doctors in the NHS for [ ] years. By perusing this case against Dr Skinner, the GMC are putting many, many patients at risk of ongoing disability and ill health. I was under the impression that the GMC was here to protect patients not victimize doctors that are looking after them. By continuing to engage in these ridiculous cases against not only Dr Skinner, but other doctors in a similar situation, the GMC is at risk of damaging its reputation and being looked upon as an unethical, incompetent organisation, that will discipline doctors that they see as not conforming with their political ideals, not because in reality they are unsafe or unfit to practice.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature Box]

cc. Dr GRB Skinner  
cc. Mr R Shipway



Copy



15<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

Ms. Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St. James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street  
Manchester M1 6FQ.

Dear Ms. Collins,

Fitness to Practise Hearing  
Dr. Gordon R. B. Skinner  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2007

A mother's perspective on her daughter's health (2)

Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome  
Quote by Samuel Johnson

The GMC are making life very difficult for our family because of its action against Dr. Skinner. Since the first IOP in June, 2005, we have spent two years wondering what the future holds for us.

My younger daughter [redacted] had shown various symptoms of hypothyroidism for many years [redacted] [redacted]



As was the case with my elder daughter and me, the chiropractor also recognized the signs and symptoms of hypothyroidism; many GPs over the years had failed to do so. I suggested [redacted] consulted Dr. Skinner and he thought she definitely had hypothyroidism and immediately started her on a trial of Thyroxine.

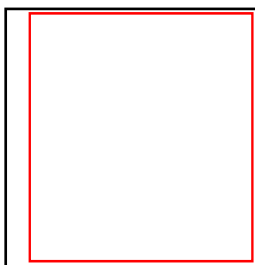
The outcome was amazing as I hadn't realised just how slow and ill she had become.

Some time later, she had to see a consultant at our local NHS hospital for various symptoms. After running umpteen blood tests, the doctor said she was obviously taking the Thyroxine as she had Hashimoto's disease. How many years would have passed without her getting the correct diagnosis if she hadn't seen Dr. Skinner?

She has  so why didn't the original doctors run the correct tests in the first place. Why is that so many GP's say 'oh you look and sound as if you have hypothyroidism' and yet declare the patient to be euthyroid when they have only run one or two tests? Normal thyroid blood test results, (when in fact the patient does have an underactive thyroid) can be truly devastating to patients with the future risk of high cholesterol, heart disease, depression, infertility, glaucoma, chronic illness etc.

**Dr. Skinner must be allowed to carry on his excellent work in diagnosing and treating hypothyroidism, because my daughter depends on his expertise in this area of medicine.** Without him, she would almost certainly be on benefits which the country can ill-afford.

Yours sincerely,



**Please make sure that all members of your Fitness to Practise panel read this letter and take note of its content.**

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

June 17, 2007

Dear Sirs.

[REDACTED]

I am writing this short letter at the request of the above who, I understand, is writing her own letter in support of her consultant. He, I am told, has been reported to the GMC in respect of his fitness to practice.

I am [REDACTED] next door neighbour. Over the years we have become good friends and I am familiar with her recent medical history including her thyroid problem – not in detail but in the sense that she often tells me what is happening. Her condition is long-standing and she has endured many difficulties in finding someone who was willing to try and do something to resolve her condition – or, indeed, even to acknowledge that she had a problem at all. During this time she has, in her view, suffered unnecessarily because of the unwillingness of previous doctors to deal with her condition.

Some [REDACTED] ago she advised me that she had found a consultant in [REDACTED] who not only, following tests, agreed that she has a problem but also prescribed medication to address it. Since the problem remained undiagnosed and therefore untreated she had been experiencing increasing difficulties in working and in functioning generally. Since receiving the medication she tells me that her life has been transformed. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and generally feels on top of the world. I can't speak for all the benefits she claims but I can definitely confirm that she appears a happier, healthier person. She puts this down to the medication prescribed to her. I have no reason to doubt that.

Obviously I cannot comment on the quality of diagnosis and treatment given to her but, as they say, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. She is much improved and wants to stay that way. She attributes this to her consultant and, for that reason she wishes to continue as his patient and for the current medical programme to continue.

That's about as much as I can say. If there is to be a hearing, I will be happy to attend as a witness if required

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ms Patricia Collins,  
Investigation Officer,  
Fitness to Practise Directorate,  
General Medical Council,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
St. James's Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ.

18<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Subject: G R B Skinner MD (Hons), DSc, FRCPath, FRCOG,  
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms Collins,

I understand that Dr G R B Skinner is to be subjected to yet another "Fitness to Practise Hearing", this one to commence on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007.

I strongly believe that Dr Skinner must be permitted to continue treating thyroid patients. This belief is based on my own thyroid history, which I would ask you and your fellow Hearing panellists to read and consider most carefully:

• I spent almost [REDACTED] years [REDACTED]. In my last year there I was diagnosed as hypothyroid. The manner of my diagnosis in [REDACTED] is relevant to the accusations being made against Dr Skinner. This [REDACTED] diagnosis was made not on the basis of a blood test alone, but first and foremost on the basis of my clinical symptoms. In early [REDACTED] my hypothyroidism was still apparently "mild" enough for my [REDACTED] diagnostic blood test to be "borderline". My [REDACTED] GP explained to me that this test result was normal (euthyroid), but only by "a hair's breadth". He considered that this test result taken together with my various hypothyroid symptoms meant that I required treatment and that this would probably be lifelong.

.../2

(2)

A  GP, then, has the freedom to look at a test result which is only barely normal, to look at the patient's symptoms, and to conclude that treatment is required. Britain is a member of the EU. A keyword in the EU is "harmonization", the achievement of identical standards and practices. Why is it acceptable for a  GP to decide, on the basis of the symptoms presented by the patient, to overrule a blood test which is still technically "normal", but not acceptable for an experienced British doctor such as Dr Skinner to do so?

• The Hippocratic Oath requires doctors to "do no harm". Both the NHS GP and the NHS endocrinologist quoted above caused me harm and suffering by blatantly and callously disregarding a serious medical condition previously diagnosed in another EU member state. Had I felt less unwell at the time, I would certainly have reported both of them to the GMC as clearly unfit to practise.

.../3

(3)

• By contrast, Dr Skinner's exemplary, thorough and careful treatment of my thyroid condition since [REDACTED] has restored me to good health.

There is an old Jewish saying that "a man who saves one life saves the world". Dr. Skinner has saved not only my life but, I know, that of many other thyroid patients who were also failed by the NHS.

If the Fitness to Practise Directorate is genuinely interested in patient care, it should

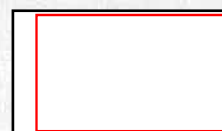
- recommend that Dr Skinner be allowed to continue treating thyroid patients,
- call a halt to the increasingly Kafkaesque harassment of this exemplary doctor, and
- instigate an urgent investigation into the inept and callous state of thyroid care in the NHS.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Copy



18<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Ms. P Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate,  
General Medical Council,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
St James's Buildings,  
79 Oxford Street,  
Manchester,  
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms. Collins,

Dr. Gordon Skinner  
Fitness to Practise Hearing  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007

*Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people*  
Eleanor Roosevelt, US diplomat and reformer, 1884-1962

I re-iterate here what I've said for Dr. Skinner's IOP hearings.

☐ years ago, if it had not been for Dr. Skinner diagnosing me with hypothyroidism, I don't know what the future would have held for me.

I always had a sunny disposition, but gradually that changed until I became depressed,

☐

Today all those symptoms are a thing of the past and I now hold down a very successful job ☐. If it hadn't have been for Dr. Skinner, I would have almost certainly had to live on benefits and be a drain on society.

☐

Thanks to Dr. Skinner, the improvement in my health was rapid once on thyroid hormone replacement, but I only regained full health when I changed from Thyroxine to Armour Thyroid.

When my treatment was passed from Dr. Skinner to my GP, I sent a letter to Dr. Skinner thanking him for his diagnosis and treatment and also saying that hopefully, in the not too distant future, the medical profession would realise that reliance on blood tests was blighting peoples' lives.

I would like to draw your attention to a recent news story in which nearly 200 drug-addicted prisoners and former inmates, who were forced to go "cold turkey" upon entering prison, have sued the Home Office for breaching their human rights. If people can sue for loss of access to illegal substances, I consider this a very serious matter that patients will not have

access to their thyroid medications should Dr. Skinner be removed from the medical register. This seems to me a very real breach of human rights.

Dr. Skinner is a saviour to thousands of patients and I do hope that the GMC will come out in favour of Dr. Skinner and his patients and don't cave in to a few doctors who disagree with his very successful treatment of patients.

This case is not just about Dr. Skinner, but all that he stands for in the diagnosis and treatment of those with thyroid disorders.

Yours sincerely,



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12.6.07

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Dr Gordon Skinner's Fitness to Practice Hearing July 2007.

In June 2005 Dr Skinner, a private UK practitioner was called before the General Medical Council to ascertain his fitness to practice due to alleged inappropriate clinical practice, including maintaining medication for patients at dangerous levels and failure of communication with other medical practitioners.

At the Interim Orders Panel in Manchester on 26 February 2007 it appears that the complaint came from one patient and not patients? Also, according to a letter from Dr Skinner and presented to the panel by his barrister Dr Skinner has refuted these allegations of impaired practice; inappropriate prescribing and placing patients at risk and deplures the misinterpretation that have been made about his medical practice.

I am writing this testimony to show my support for Dr Skinner and to share my experience of being one of his patients.

In [redacted], after many years of being ill  
off and on I was diagnosed with [redacted]  
[redacted] in my homeland at [redacted]  
and was <sup>given</sup> medication deemed suitable for  
my symptoms. I then moved to the UK  
later that year and was placed under  
the care of the Endocrinology Dept  
of [redacted] hospital, London. Vis by  
G.P. Over the next [redacted] years my  
Thyroid disease went through many stages.  
From getting worse to stabilising and  
back again. In [redacted], I was <sup>at the Hospital</sup> as I  
wasn't feeling good and was told that  
my blood tests were "Normal" and that  
I was well!! Instead, of feeling elated I  
was devastated as I had never felt  
worse, I had the severest of symptoms.  
Psychological, emotional and physical. I was  
at my lowest ebb. If it wasn't my Thyroid  
making me feel this way, then what  
was it? I felt there was nowhere to  
turn. Desperate and miserable, I trawled  
the internet for weeks to try and find  
some insight as to what was wrong with  
me. Finally, I came across some  
information that explained that some  
patients with "normal" Thyroid lab tests  
could still feel very, very unwell. This  
was a complete revelation!  
On the Thyroid.info.com website there  
was a list of Doctors recommended by  
other Thyroid patients and it was

There I discovered Dr Skinner's name and so many glowing references from fellow sufferers. I felt I had nothing to lose then to go and see him.

After lengthy chats with his wonderful Secretary I felt I was ready to see if he could help me. I was scared and in a terrible state and felt sceptical that anyone could help me.

I was sent a letter from him saying that I ~~would~~ should bring blood test results of F+4, TSH, FT3, (Cortisol and B12 and fasting blood glucose if possible).

But, more importantly that I would not be seen, under any circumstances without a referral letter from my G.P.

So, I set off from [redacted] to [redacted]

[redacted] with copies of the lab. blood results, the referral letter and copies of all my medical records to date regarding my Thyroid.

After one and a half hours with Dr Skinner he had assessed that perhaps I had become Hypothyroid and that was why I was displaying these symptoms. At all times throughout the consultation Dr Skinner was the consummate professional. Full of facts and information and performing ~~clinical~~ clinical tests that actually I had never had any of before eg: a thyroid examination of my hair and scalp,



The skin on my hands under a magnifying glass, examination of tongue, weight check, blood pressure and pulse rate etc but more importantly he wanted to know exactly how I was, feeling and asked many pertinent questions to help with his prognosis. He listened to me and reassured me that he felt I was going to be okay and that he would do his best to help me on the road to recovery.

He prescribed  <sup>mcg</sup> of Thyroxine only. I was told I must come back in 2 months time with new blood tests to check up how I was doing. I explained that I was concerned that my GP might not be willing to prescribe this, seeing as my blood tests were "Normal". Dr Skinner said "No problem. Your Doctor can call me and I will explain my diagnosis and treatment to him. This then transpired that my GP only agreed to treat me with  <sup>mcg</sup> instead, which I was happy to go along with.

Within  of taking the medication I felt transformed. I felt normal again. I could "see the forest for the trees". I could think rationally. At first I thought it could be the "Placebo effect" but subsequently do not believe that was the case. The



nc 55

It was amazing!!

Recently, this year - May I started displaying some symptoms of Hyperthyroidism and blood tests ~~showed~~ <sup>showed</sup> that to be the case. I then got in touch with DR SKINNER and he is treating me accordingly. It was then that I learned of the situation concerning Dr Skinner. Once again during this second consultation I am happy with his prognosis and his openness to have dialogue with my GP most satisfactorily. Therefore, I am absolutely dismayed to learn that there is a possibility that he may be struck off.

Where will I go now? Who can I turn to? I have lost faith in the NHS endocrinologists at St. Barth's hospital and am terrified that I may be placed back in their care and be misdiagnosed and left desperate & alone.

Myself and thousands of others  
throughout the UK need Dr Skinner  
and practitioners like him - Qualified,  
knowledgeable, brave, responsible and  
intelligent professionals who treat their  
patients with respect and dignity.  
I believe he has literally saved people's  
lives or at least greatly enhanced the  
quality of their lives.

Why has he been treated in this  
way? It seems grossly unfair to him,  
all of his patients and their  
friends and families.

So many people out here are  
behind him and fully support the  
work that he does.

I believe <sup>that</sup> the medical profession  
does, an over-reliance on thyroid blood  
test results and total lack of reliance  
on symptoms, signs, history of patient and  
clinical appraisal.

Dr Skinner is interested in all of  
these and treats his patients accord-  
ingly in a very careful way.

I am asking you to listen to  
our stories and please take them  
into consideration when you make  
your decision regarding Dr Skinner's  
right to practice.

Please give Dr Gordon Skinner a  
balanced and fair hearing.

We need Dr Skinner and whilst  
him many of us face a bleak +  
difficult road ahead.

Thank you

Yours faithfully



Copies sent to:

- Professor Graeme Catto  
General Medical Council
- Ralph Shipway  
Radcliffe Le Basser (Solicitors)
- Dr Mark Dudley  
Medical Protection Society
- Adam Elliott  
Emc
- Dr Gordon Skinner



General Medical Council	
Original was a Photocopy	
Original was Poor Quality	
Date recd	18 JUN 2007
Original has been Photocopied to improve Scan Quality	
Document had physical objects ref:	



Thursday, 14 June 2007

Patricia Collins  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness To Practice Directorate  
General Medical Council  
Manchester  
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins,

Ref. Dr. Skinner "Fitness To Practice" Hearing  
Ref. No. 0726922

I am writing in support of Dr. Skinner who has been treating my wife for hypothyroidism for several years. I am seriously concerned that you may, by any action you take which curtails Dr Skinner's work, fail in your claimed primary objective – "Our job is to protect patients". Having reviewed the transactions of the IOP's held for Dr. Skinner, I can see no evidence which clearly indicates that any of his patients have suffered from his actions. I have first hand experience of the good which Dr. Skinner has achieved and am extremely concerned that differences of "academic opinion" could result in Dr. Skinner being unable to continue to provide the help, he is demonstrably providing. In fact your actions could cause severe distress and a return to poor life quality for the many patients he currently treats.

Prior to [redacted], my wife, Mrs. [redacted], was an active and vibrant woman who loved life and was engaged in many activities as well as bringing up four children. She was energetic and had a wide range of interests to which she devoted much time and energy. [redacted]

[redacted] Her quality of life was devastated.

Her GP initially thought the symptoms suggested hypothyroidism but after conducting blood tests which she said gave results "within normal ranges", the GP said she was at a loss to know what had brought on these changes. At our request the GP arranged a consultation with a local endocrinologist who told my wife that he saw many women in her condition [redacted]

[redacted] He reiterated the GP's view that the blood tests indicated no results outside the "normal range" and that clinically, like the many other women he saw, there was basically nothing wrong with her. [redacted]

[Redacted]

My wife was obviously very upset with the condition she found herself in and we were struggling to understand what we could do to change my wife's condition. We were told of the work Dr. Skinner was doing and talked to our GP, who referred my wife to him.

At the first consultation he carefully examined my wife, saw the symptoms at first hand, reviewed her blood test data and concurred, she was hypothyroid. He prescribed a low dosage of supplementation to start with and within weeks there were significant and very obvious changes for the better in my wife's health and quality of life. He has continued to treat my wife, with the full knowledge of her current GP, and the change he has managed to achieve has been truly remarkable. I now have back the wife I once knew, with energy to put into life and the motivation to become the vibrant member of our family she always used to be. At all times in our dealings with Dr. Skinner, he has taken very obvious care in finding out exactly how my wife is feeling and just how the symptoms are exhibited. Our GP is aware of the dosages prescribed and blood tests are conducted at our local GP practice with the results being available to both Dr Skinner and our GP. It is only through the good efforts of Dr. Skinner that my wife has regained her quality of life. It would definitely not be in the best interests of my wife to cease to receive his medical care and attention.

So I implore the GMC to consider the many, many letters you have had in support of Dr. Skinner - the transactions of the IOP's suggest that these have not been given the weight and merit they deserve. The Fitness to Practice Panel must take a balanced view if this is not to become a travesty of justice and reason.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Copies to:

[Redacted]  
Mr. Ralph Shipway  
Dr. Mark Dudley