

17th February 2012

Interim Orders Panel
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

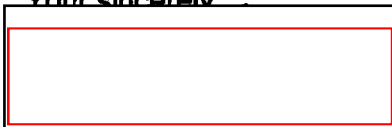
Dear Sir/Madam

I write regarding a complaint made by [redacted] against Dr Gordon Skinner.

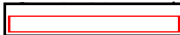
I do not endorse what [redacted] said regarding my case and am very annoyed, to say the least, that the complaint was made [redacted]

As Dr Skinner's patient I am extremely happy with his treatment protocol and care because he cared when others would not. I would be extremely distressed and anxious if I could not remain a patient of Dr Skinner.

Your sincerely



cc Mr S Duffy



General Medical Council	
Original was a Photocopy	
Original was Poor Quality	
Date rec	26 FEB 2012
Location	
Original has been Photocopied to improve quality	
Current held physical objects ref:	

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 20 February 2012 14:30
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: C1-462487326: Dr Gordon Robert Bruce Skinner
Attachments: GMC Dr Skinner 20 Feb 12.wps

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur.

5 Great College Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3SJ
UK
Tel +44 (0)20 7222 7040
Fax +44 (0)20 7222 6208
Email: info@rlb-law.com
Yours sincerely

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

The GMC is changing how it deals with cases at the end of an investigation into a doctor's fitness to practise. To find out more and have your say visit www.gmc-uk.org/ftpreformconsultation

From: GMC Fitness to Practise
Sent: 20 February 2012 14:07
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: FW: C1-462487326: Dr Gordon Robert Bruce Skinner

Please see below

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 February 2012 14:05
To: GMC Fitness to Practise
Subject: C1-462487326: Dr Gordon Robert Bruce Skinner

Please find my attached correspondence in respect of the above and also accept my apologies for having forwarded a blank email within the last hour.

I have faxed the IOP Team but was also given this email address too. Should this be inappropriate, please accept my apologies and disregard.

Kind regards

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 20 February 2012 14:23
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Case no C1-462487326

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur.

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Yours sincerely

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 February 2012 19:19
To: GMC Fitness to Practise
Subject: Fw: Case no C1-462487326

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 7:16 PM
To: IOPTeam@gmc-uk.org
Subject: Case no C1-462487326

Dear Sirs

I write with reference to the above case re Dr Skinner. I note he has been summoned to appear before the GMC yet again, following on from his recent case which was resolved in his favour.

I would like to complain about the GMC's treatment of Dr Skinner. I am astonished that there appears to be a witch hunt against this fine doctor when he is working together with patients to resolve serious health concerns that our GPs and Endocrinologists cannot, or will not resolve. If the GMC continue to

hound this doctor out of practice, it will force already desperate thyroid patients to seek medical advice and treatment through avenues outwith the GMC approved sources.

I have battled to regain my health [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] My GP, by her own admission, knows little about threatening hypothyroidism. This placed me at a disadvantage straight away. There isn't the same interest, funding or research with thyroid disease as there is for cancer and heart disease. I spent a lot of money seeing a private endocrinologist, only to be told I should be feeling well by now and any other problems must be due to some other random illness. I was then diagnosed with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I am not remotely depressed, I am, however, disgusted and angry at what passes for thyroid treatment in a twenty first century developed country like Great Britain.

I found Dr Skinner to be empathetic, kind, patient and, above all, willing to listen and work with me to try and resolve these long term health issues. I would like to draw your attention to the recent online thyroid clinic run by TalkHealth, sponsored by NHS Choices.

<http://www.talkhealthpartnership.com/forum/viewforum.php?f=185>

It strikes me as self evident that the current protocols for treating hypothyroidism is desperately unsatisfactory. The percentage of patients with hypothyroidism on this forum alone is disproportionately high against those with other thyroid disorders. Either by some fluke of nature, all hypo patients are belligerent and troublesome, or they are not receiving the care they need for this illness.

I will support Dr Skinner completely to clear his name of these new accusations. I hope the GMC will reconsider their position.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 20 February 2012 14:27
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Case no. C1-462487326. Dr Gordon Robert Bruce SKINNER Ref No: 0726922

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur.

5 Great College Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3SJ

Tel +44 (0)20 7222 7040; Fax +44 (0)20 7222 6208; Email: info@rlb-law.com

Yours sincerely

Elisa Summerfield
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From: GMC Fitness to Practise
Sent: 20 February 2012 11:40
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: FW: Case no. C1-462487326. Dr Gordon Robert Bruce SKINNER Ref No: 0726922

Please see below

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 February 2012 15:39
To: GMC Fitness to Practise
Subject: Fwd: Case no. C1-462487326. Dr Gordon Robert Bruce SKINNER Ref No: 0726922

Please note my message below regarding the action against Dr Gordon Skinner.

Begin forwarded message:

From:

[REDACTED]

Date: 19 February 2012 15:34:18 GMT

To: IOPTeam@gmc-uk.org

Cc:

[REDACTED]

Subject: Case no. C1-462487326. Dr Gordon Robert Bruce SKINNER Ref No: 0726922

RE: Case no. C1-462487326 Dr Gordon Robert Bruce SKINNER Ref No: 0726922

I am writing on behalf of my sister who is too ill following [REDACTED] years of appalling treatment from her NHS GP and Primary Care Trust to write this message herself.

We are both shocked and disgusted to learn that yet again the GMC is calling Dr Skinner to attend an IOP next Wednesday. This continued and relentless harassment of a superb and eminent specialist such as Dr Skinner by complainants who are protecting their own interests instead of their patients is shameful and the investigations should be directed towards them and not Dr Skinner.

The only reason that patients need people like Dr Skinner is because of the inadequacies of the system.

Who in their right mind would make a [REDACTED] round trip as we did and pay for the privilege if they could receive the care needed from their NHS doctor? In my sister's case, Dr Skinner could not see her until he received a referral from her GP and he made it very clear that he wanted to work directly with her GP. Needless to say her doctor allowed continued suffering for [REDACTED] weeks before he 'got round' to referring my sister.

We have a number of reasons for complaining about the latest action by the GMC:

1. It is totally unreasonable to give 3 working days notice for him to attend this hearing.
2. This will force him to drop his work caring for hundreds of patients in dire need of better treatment than they receive from the NHS. This is having a direct impact on my sister's treatment.
3. You state your job is to protect the patient - my sister does not need protection from Dr Skinner she needs protection from the GMC, the NHS and her GP. She was getting the care she needed from Dr Skinner. Your action will prevent him from sharing his care plan with my sister's GP because he will be too busy yet again dealing with this action.
4. Apparently, all your work is focussed on helping make sure that patients receive good care from their doctor. If that is the case then you will ensure that Dr Skinner can continue his wonderful work sharing his, knowledge, skills and educating woefully inadequate GPs and endocrinologists about thyroid conditions and proper treatment.
5. My sister's GP has been pursuing investigations of individual symptoms instead of looking for and treating the cause of her illness. The NHS is incapable looking at the whole picture while it concentrates on protocols that do nothing to help patients. This results in a shameful waste of taxpayers money notwithstanding the stress and pain caused to the patients. Dr Skinner assess the whole picture using blood tests as a guide and he should be applauded for listening and observing the clinical presentation of his patients not hounded for his good work.
6. My sisters GP has been prescribing cocktails of inappropriate dangerous drugs (my assessment not Dr Skinner's as he was far too professional than to criticise her GP). The side effects of these drugs have exacerbated her condition and her GP has ignored all the contraindications of drugs that should not be taken together. All these have been prescribed under a backdrop of no diagnosis and without due care and diligence for my sister's wellbeing. It goes to say that he has ignored all the clinical presentations of an obvious thyroid condition. The huge financial cost to the NHS of these drugs given over five years is difficult to estimate. Dr Skinner's protocol would have been much less harmful, cost only £1 a week and could have given my sister her life back and free her from constant pain. Your action is preventing that from happening.
7. The point behind item 6 is that you should be concentrating your efforts on the diabolical standard care from GPs. If that were the case and they were properly educated and trained as you claim to do, my sister and thousands of other patients may not be suffering the way they are.
8. Although your last ruling in October is to be applauded, exoneration of Dr Skinner reflects badly not only on these individuals but also on the whole system in this country. I believe this latest complaint is a witch-hunt by so called medical professionals who do not want to be exposed for mistreating their patients.

Dr Skinner was my sister's last hope. Please investigate the people that are taking action against him and clear Dr Skinner from any wrongdoing so he may continue his vital work.

Please send your response via this email address. Thank you.

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 20 February 2012 14:21
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Dr Gordon Bruce Skinner Case No. C1-462487326

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur.

5 Great College Street
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Email: info@rlb-law.com

Yours sincerely

Elisa Summerfield
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 February 2012 19:23
To: IOP Team; GMC Fitness to Practise; [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr Gordon Bruce Skinner Case No. C1-462487326

I'm sorry this is a replacement email as I missed out the Case No.

From: [REDACTED]
To: iopteam@gmc-uk.org; [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr Gordon Bruce Skinner
Date: Fri, 17 Feb 2012 18:42:24 +0000

Sirs/Madam,

With all due respect, I have just heard the most astonishing and horrendous news that Dr Skinner is to go before the GMC YET AGAIN. It is absolutely a 'witch hunt' as he is not killing his patients.

Yet a COURAGEOUS doctor puts the recovery of his patients first with the dedication and compassion which should be doctors' first 'port of call'. But the British Thyroid Association have clearly lost that

capacity for caring and compassion.

LET'S FACE IT - IF THE BRITISH THYROID ASSOCIATION AND ET-AL WERE DOING THEIR JOB THERE WOULD ABSOLUTELY NEVER EVER BE A NEED TO PROSECUTE ANOTHER BECAUSE THE PATIENTS WOULD HAVE TREATMENT ON THEIR DOORSTEP.

WE WOULD LOVE TO GO LOCAL RATHER THAN TRANSVERSE THE WHOLE COUNTRY IN THE HOPE THAT ONE DOCTOR CAN HELP - BE ABLE TO TRIAL OTHER THYROID HORMONES - AND GET PROPER MEDICATION FROM NHS DOCTORS WHO AT THE MOMENT ARE TERRIFIED/AFRAID TO AND BE ALLOWED TREATMENT IF SYMPTOMATIC.

Do you really think if patients were recovering their health on thyroxine, or have terrible symptoms, but a blood test shows within the British 'range', would travel the breadth of Britain to ONE doctor who does eventually help them recover their health.

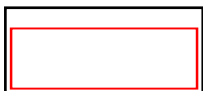
My dream (and many others) is that patients to get well by offering them one or more products as well as thyroxine - not 1 alone and to hang with you if you are still complaining. Many are given anti-depressants instead and sent hither and thither to other NHS departments for their continuing complaints for which there IS resolution.

I already sent you a copy at the last hearing of a Rebuttal by Dr John Lowe, Scientist (this is his CV),(<http://www.drloewe.com/cvs/cvjcl.htm>) sent to the British Thyroid Association - and we know their views entirely by their non-response to this in March '09.

There was a Talkhealth Forum on Thyroid on JAN 12 2012. Of all the subject on their Talkhealth forum (just have a look) there were 769 posts. Astonishing. Yes. Although some questions were not answered and some bulked together.

That figure alone - sevenhundredandsixtynine - posts should point everyone in the right direction. It must be the highest ever and they had to close the line before the date. Most posters were disappointed they didn't get a proper response or question ignored.

What about the people with thyroid problems and no internet . There then must be thousand and thousands of sufferers going it alone, broken marriages, unable to look after their families, unable to work. or even look after themselves. What is this!!! 'OH - THEY'RE NORMAL".



Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 20 February 2012 14:29
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner Case No462487326

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur.

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Yours sincerely

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

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Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 February 2012 17:17
To: IOP Team; [REDACTED] GMC Fitness to Practise
Subject: Dr Skinner Case No462487326

Dear Sir/Madam

I write in support of Dr Skinner, I am a prospective patient as he is comes highly recommended. I understand the complaint has not come from his many 100's of satisfied patients.

I am one of the many hypothyroid sufferers without treatment - this is due to the fact that my TSH being [REDACTED] (range to 5.5) is not 'high' enough - without regard to my symptoms [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I am left to suffer with debilitating symptoms and no quality of life.

This is all too familiar story, which I'm sure Dr Skinner has heard many times, and will act to help as he has the knowledge to do so. Unlike many incompasionate GPs who rely on blood tests (TSH tests pituitary output, not Thyroid hormone).

Yours faithfully

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 20 February 2012 14:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: With reference to Case Number C1-462487326
Attachments: My Thyroid Story.pdf; ATT2308492.txt

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur.

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London SW1P 3SJ
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Yours sincerely

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

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-----Original Message-----

From: GMC Fitness to Practise
Sent: 20 February 2012 11:35
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: FW: With reference to Case Number C1-462487326

Please see below

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2012 16:32
To: IOP Team; GMC Fitness to Practise; [REDACTED]
Cc: lansley@parliament.uk
Subject: With reference to Case Number C1-462487326

Would all concerned please consider my letter attached to be in support of Dr Skinner and his IOP, case number as referenced above.

My Story

I am appalled to hear that pioneers, such as Dr Skinner, in the diagnosis and treatment of Thyroidism are being investigated for malpractice.

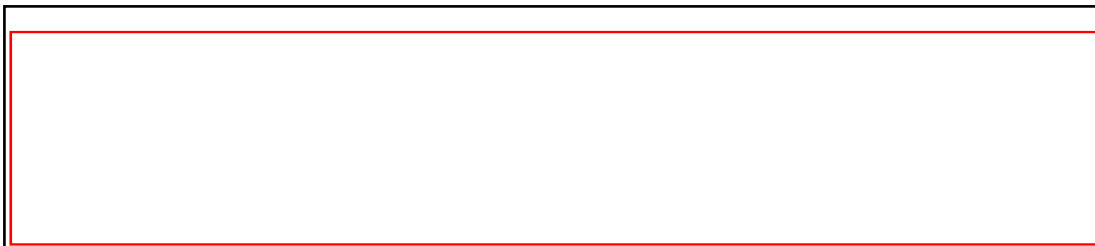
I am [redacted] years of age and am living a fraction of the life I used to have. I have seen first hand both my grandmother and mother exhibit fatigue and malaise in later years, only to be diagnosed as hypothyroid after a considerable period of time. Their lost years never to be reclaimed. I am also seeing mine circling the plug hole.

My mother started with constant aches and pains in her [redacted] and suffered

[redacted]. I remember her tears of frustration. She was offered no option but to ride it out. I lost my mother in all those years. I am sure she lost herself too. I look back now with an understanding that her diagnosis of hypothyroidism was what had caused her to feel ill so many years before. Both my grandmother and my mother were retired out early due to ill health [redacted]. They struggled silently for years, unsupported by the medical systems in place. Only their symptoms were treated, on an individual basis. Are General Practitioners unable to see the joined up picture, or are they stifled by DoH/GMC guidelines and procedures?

I am now falling into my mother's pattern. [redacted]

[redacted] I was advised that my TSH is "normal" so no thyroid diagnosis as yet. Hormones are also "normal", [redacted]



If you were seeing this happen to your mother, sister, wife or daughter, would you pass it off as hormonal or depression and expect them to ride it out? Or when they asked to see an endocrinologist, laugh at the suggestion and tell them “you don’t need to see an endocrinologist”? This is the GP treatment that I, my mother and countless women on the ThyroidUK blog forums are receiving.

[redacted] I was still suffering, but managed to cover it. I am presently unable to contribute to the UK economy [redacted]

[redacted] My mother and maternal grandmother lost [redacted] years of working life between them. Another loss to the UK economy over the years. Is it a coincidence that most hypothyroid sufferers are women of a particular age? Has anyone within the DoH/GMC looked at the body of evidence on a woman’s declining fertility and the entry to eventual hypothyroid diagnosis? If you want case study evidence I suggest you look at the ThyroidUK forum and others. Read the personal stories of job loss and desperation to feel well and worthy again. If you take the emotional aspect and duty of care out of your response to each story, look at the financial loss to the country of women unable to contribute, wholly or in part.

The Government, through a GP membership, indirectly support you financially. Do you not then have a direct responsibility to ensure that the health of the nation is cared for? What are the long term health issues for mis or late diagnosis of an underactive thyroid? I understand that Levothyroxine can cause health problems for circulatory health. I don’t have knowledge of, nor understand what failure to treat the condition could cause to my health.

I add my partner’s thoughts on the science behind the range parameters for TSH below:-

Hypothyroidism and TSH

The TSH reading is used as a basis for diagnosis of hypothyroid conditions in the UK. There is a range of acceptable values (much wider than in other countries such as the USA) where GP’s will not consider referral to an endocrinologist or prescribe levothyroxine as a means of tackling a condition, committing tens of thousands of patients, 80% of whom are women to years and decades of misery before something is finally done.

There is, scientifically, a fundamental problem with the methodology for using TSH values as a measure for hypothyroid conditions. The problem is that the ‘normal’ TSH

value for every person differs, which is compounded by the fact that there is generally no baseline value measured for a patient when they are fit and healthy. To explain this further here is a hypothetical example.

The patient is now [] years old, and is suffering from numerous problems, all of which are symptoms of the hypothyroid condition. Those problems can be traced back to a time in her [] At no point prior to that time was a TSH value measured and lodged with her medical records. So there is no way of knowing later on in life WHAT that patient's normal TSH baseline range SHOULD be. Knowing that baseline 'normal' value for a patient is a fundamental principle of scientific measurement and monitoring. In other, non medical fields, recording a baseline value is standard practice before conducting other experiments to monitor the impact of whatever the objective of the experiment is intended to deliver.

Therefore, without having that healthy baseline measurement, the practice of comparing a patient's current TSH level with an arbitrary range, which is unconnected to that patients history, is a scientifically invalid and illogical comparison.

I understand that there is a need for a regulatory body, but so little is understood by GPs (they are generalists after all) and women, in desperation are seeking out ways to self medicate, seek private help and turn away from their GP, in order to feel NORMAL again. In persecuting the specialists, who have helped people to regain their health, you are pushing us back into the dark ages of seeking out those less reputable. The US has changed its range parameters as have other EU countries. Why can you not recommend the same or at least advise the DoH to consult the patients concerned. I was hoping to have the life line of seeing Dr Skinner or an endocrinologist if my GP cannot assist me back from ill health. There is a lack of knowledge on thyroid conditions at a GP level and until the DoH look into this matter, the overall financial impact of inability to work and treating symptoms individually, will be greater than treating holistically.

Forgive my ramblings! []

Many Regards,; [

[]

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 February 2012 16:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Case no C1-462487326

Dear

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur.

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Email: info@rlb-law.com

Yours sincerely

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: GMC Fitness to Practise
Sent: 21 February 2012 14:11
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: FW: Case no C1-462487326

Please see below

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 February 2012 14:09
To: GMC Fitness to Practise
Subject: Case no C1-462487326

Dear Sirs

I am writing to you to state my support for Dr Gordon Skinner whom I believe has been called in front of the GMC yet again.

[REDACTED] My wife is a patient of Dr Skinner and I can only say that I am incredibly grateful that she is. She fell ill [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] total thyroidectomy after almost a year of

This resulted in hypothyroidism for which the endocrinologist prescribed Levothyroxine. My wife never recovered fully though, experiencing an ever growing array of symptoms. The most troublesome for her were [REDACTED] Her endocrinologist told her these were nothing to do with hypothyroidism and even if they were, she was being well controlled as the bloods were in range. She was a changed woman. The fatigue meant she cancelled plans, gave up her hobbies, lost touch with her friends and napped in the day. [REDACTED]

Last November she pleaded with her endocrinologist for help. It was clear to us the Levothyroxine was not doing enough, despite what the bloods 'said' and she didn't believe the [redacted] diagnosis to be correct, or at least the whole story. She asked for alternatives to Levothyroxine, or if it was possible she was not tolerating it well after [redacted] years. Astonishingly, he told her there were no alternatives to it! We both knew this to be untrue. Was he lying to her or was he truly unaware of alternatives such as purified Levothyroxine or Armour? Who can say? What was clear was that her health was declining at an alarming rate and something needed to be done. So, almost [redacted] years after doing it the proscribed way, seeing the Endocrinologist and taking the Levothyroxine but nevertheless deteriorating, she researched her condition and contacted Dr Skinner. And we are both very glad she did.

She is now improving greatly on Erfa, which Dr Skinner prescribed as the GP believed she was not allowed to, despite being convinced of the benefits. We pay for this prescription, we would pay ten times the cost for the simple fact it is giving my wife her quality of life back. My son has his mother and I have my wife back. The cost to the NHS for the medicines she was previously prescribed was larger : Levothyroxine, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The money we have spent on private Endocrinologists, [REDACTED] Cardiologists and Rheumatologists is huge and can only be seen as a total waste. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

If this hardworking and successful doctor is hounded out of practise, it will be nothing short of a travesty for many thousands of patients and their families. It's not an overstatement in my belief to say it would be a death sentence for many of them. Please do the right thing here and reconsider the diagnostic protocols for hypothyroidism instead of persecuting a very fine man with no ego or ulterior motive.

Yours faithfully

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 February 2012 16:00
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Case no. C1-462487326. Dr Gordon Robert Bruce SKINNER Ref No: 0726922

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 February 2012 15:42
To: IOP Team
Cc: [REDACTED] GMC Fitness to Practise
Subject: Case no. C1-462487326. Dr Gordon Robert Bruce SKINNER Ref No: 0726922

I am writing as a relative of one of Dr Skinner's patients - my Aunt would write herself, but unfortunately she is too ill.

I would like to register my complete disgust that Dr Skinner is yet again being investigated by the GMC. I suggest that it would be more sensible to investigate the GPs who have complained about Dr Skinner - if these GPs are anywhere near as unprofessional, incapable, incompetent and conceited as my Aunt's GP, then I expect their patients would not have needed to go to Dr Skinner in the first place. It is the GPs who should be investigated, NOT Dr Skinner. I suspect their complaints have been made to cover up their own failings.

Furthermore, this investigation is preventing Dr Skinner from treating his patients who, like my Aunt, have already been failed by the NHS and their GPs. Rather than helping and protecting patients as the GMC are supposed to be doing, instead you are causing additional pain and anguish to patients and preventing them receiving the care they require.

Regards

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 February 2012 16:02
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner - Case Number C1-462487326

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur.

5 Great College Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3SJ
UK
Tel +44 (0)20 7222 7040
Fax +44 (0)20 7222 6208
Email: info@rlb-law.com

Yours sincerely

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From: GMC Fitness to Practise
Sent: 21 February 2012 09:11
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner - Case Number C1-462487326

Please see below

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 February 2012 20:08
To: IOP Team
Cc: [REDACTED]; GMC Fitness to Practise
Subject: Dr Skinner - Case Number C1-462487326

Dear Sir/Madam,

As one of Dr Gordon Skinner's patients, I am extremely shocked to hear that Dr Skinner is once again being summoned to an Interim Orders Panel by the GMC, and I am not at all happy about it.

It is only thanks to getting diagnosed and treated by Dr Skinner [redacted] that I am finally feeling better – after my symptoms of hypothyroidism were ignored by countless different GPs and other doctors for the last [redacted] years.

Unfortunately, there is a general problem in this country with GPs (and even some endocrinologists) not getting taught enough about hypothyroidism during their studies to be able to diagnose and treat this illness efficiently. This is a huge issue that needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

From my experience, very few doctors nowadays know how to diagnose hypothyroidism by actually examining their patient, observing signs and symptoms of the illness and taking their patients' history, although that is how people used to be diagnosed before blood tests existed. Historically, sufferers were subsequently treated with thyroid hormone until their symptoms disappeared. In my opinion, judging whether a patient is well again should again be measured by how they feel, and whether they are symptom free.

Relying on the obviously flawed TSH test for diagnosing and treating hypothyroidism leads to unnecessary suffering for tens or even hundreds of thousands of people, who are fobbed off as their TSH is – as the doctors say – “within the normal range”. This happened to me various times over the years, and delayed my treatment by [redacted] [redacted] I will never be able to get back the time I lost due to not getting treated earlier, and it makes me very angry that the same is still happening now to other sufferers.

It is interesting that the so-called “normal” TSH ranges go way higher in the UK than those of other developed countries in the world. This results in people in the US or Germany getting diagnosed with a TSH of 3.0 and 2.5 respectively, whereas in the UK, people have to wait until their TSH is at least 4.5, but often will not get treated until their TSH reaches 10. Also, when sufferers get treated, the priority (according to www.cks.nhs.uk/hypothyroidism) is to get the patient's TSH within the “normal reference range” while avoiding a suppressed TSH. However, these guidelines do not account for the fact that people are individuals.

I am sure you are aware that each individual has their own ideal range of thyroid hormones in their blood, so it does not make any sense to tell someone their blood results are “normal” when they are not actually ideal for this specific person. This one-size-fits-all approach does not work; it would be the same to state that every woman in the UK fits into any clothes sizes between 6 and 14, as this is the normal range of clothes sizes in the UK. Therefore, the aim should be to use as much thyroid hormone as necessary to get the person to feel well (at which point their blood results should indicate what their ideal numbers are).

Dr Skinner is one of the few doctors in the UK who actually care about hypothyroid patients and try to make them healthy again, as opposed to many others (including presumably those GPs who made the most recent complaint against him) who do not treat their patients as human beings, but rather as thyroid blood results and numbers.

There urgently needs to be a change in the approach in how the illness is diagnosed and treated by the NHS, in order to avoid more suffering.

I would also like to make you think about what would happen if doctors like Dr Skinner were no longer allowed to practise in the UK. People would have to go abroad to get diagnosed and treated, or would start to self-medicate. Those who could not afford this might be so desperate at the lack of care from NHS doctors – who ignore their patients' wellbeing in favour of numbers – that they no longer want to live. In any case, untreated, undertreated and ignored sufferers of hypothyroidism are a huge loss to the economy, as many are too ill to work. They will also continue to cost the NHS a lot of money as long as GPs treat each symptom of the illness separately without addressing the cause. I urge you to stop prosecuting the few good doctors who help hypothyroid people get better.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

--

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 February 2012 16:01
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Important Reference for 22nd February 2012 - Case No. C1-462487326

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur.

5 Great College Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3SJ
UK
Tel +44 (0)20 7222 7040
Fax +44 (0)20 7222 6208
Email: info@rlb-law.com

Yours sincerely

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 February 2012 16:19
To: IOP Team
Cc: [REDACTED]; GMC Fitness to Practise
Subject: Important Reference for 22nd February 2012 - Case No. C1-462487326

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to provide a reference regarding Dr. Skinner's hearing case on Thursday 22nd February this week.

My wife has been Dr Skinner's patient for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

She was on Levothyroxine treatment from [REDACTED] until meeting Dr Skinner in [REDACTED]. The treatment with levothyroxine unfortunately wasn't helpful enough for her which is why after so many years of seeing her not improving, we sought Dr Skinner's help.

We found out that a healthy thyroid produces the following thyroid hormones: T1, T2, T3, T4 and calcitonin. My wife has no longer got a thyroid which means that her body was deprived of all of the above mentioned thyroid hormones.

Synthetic Thyroxine (T4) medication alone did not return her to a good health. We know that her body should have converted T4 into T3, however when checking, the levels of her T3 hormone in her blood were low.

When meeting Dr Skinner [REDACTED] he looked at my wife's health history and her latest blood test results and slowly started changing her treatment from Levothyroxine to Natural Desiccated Thyroid. The Natural Desiccated

Thyroid (she takes Erfa) contains all thyroid hormones - that is T1, T2, T3, T4 and calcitonin.

My wife's health and quality of life has improved significantly since taking Erfa. We just wish that we found Dr Skinner earlier as she had a series of health issues following her second pregnancy. These were serious health issues which continued for so long and only stopped when she changed her levothyroxine medication to natural desiccated thyroid prescribed by Dr. Skinner.

I would also like to say that my wife might have avoided the [redacted] altogether if she was offered a thyroid hormone treatment back in [redacted] when she started feeling some thyroid related symptoms [redacted]. She asked her GP to be tested for a thyroid dysfunction. The test results in [redacted] were normal but on the higher side of the reference range. The treatment was not started because of the 'NORMAL' result. She could see and feel that her thyroid was clearly struggling and it wasn't until [redacted] that she was finally started on a small dose of thyroxine. She was then failed by her Endocrinologist's team [redacted].

Unfortunately, we can't go back in time but if we could, we would go back to [redacted] and visit Dr Skinner immediately when my wife rightly suspected the start of her thyroid problems and was let down by the systematic approach of general medicine practice to look at the test results and not the patient's physical symptoms.

Dear Sir or Madam, I sincerely hope that you personally never embark on a thyroid disease as it's diagnosis and treatment in this country is such a major struggle for hundred's of thousands patients.

Thank you kindly for your attention,

Kind regards,

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 22 February 2012 13:51
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Case No: C1-462487326

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur. Their contact details are as follows:

5 Great College Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3SJ
UK

Tel +44 (0)20 7222 7040
Fax +44 (0)20 7222 6208
Email: info@rlb-law.com

Yours sincerely

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 February 2012 16:11
To: IOP Team; GMC Fitness to Practise
Subject: Fwd: Case No: C1-462487326

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
To: IOPTeam <IOPTeam@gmc-uk.org>; practse <practse@gmc-uk.org>
CC: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue, 21 Feb 2012 15:29
Subject: Case No: C1-462487326

To Whom It may concern

Re: Dr Skinner

I am writing in support of Dr Skinner. I would ask that you take the time to read my story and pass this on to the relevant people.

[REDACTED]

I started to become really unwell [REDACTED] I was told by my GP that I had a viral infection. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I felt so weak I thought I was going to die.

My sister had seen a programme about thyroid problems on This Morning with Dr Chris Steele (who himself said we must treat the patient not the blood results). Following this I joined thyroid UK and was shocked to see that I had almost every symptom listed on there.

I knew from my GP that my Thyroid results had come back as what is classed as "normal".

Reading other peoples experiences and realising that blood tests are not conclusive ([redacted]), I made the decision to see Dr Skinner privately. I asked my GP to refer me and she kindly agreed. She had seen me so unwell over the last [redacted] but her hands were tied.

I saw him on [redacted] and he diagnosed me as Hypo immediately. I have every symptom there is. He wrote to my GP and also gave me some thyroxine to try.

I came away from that meeting crying that I was finally being listened to.

I started on thyroxine ([redacted]mg) the following day. Although I have only been on this medication I have seen a massive improvement. I feel alive again. I can do housework / spend time with my family / go for walks. I know I still have a long way to go but I can see such a difference in my quality of life. [redacted]

[redacted]

Over the past [redacted] I have been offered medication for [redacted] and many more. All of these tablets can cause side effects as I am aware in some cases Thyroxine may. Is that not why they have warnings on all medications?

[redacted] Depression is diagnosed all too easily. Listen to the patient - they know their body better than anyone else. Clinical signs/symptoms need to be looked at (they do this far too easily for conditions such as depression).

I cannot believe that the GMC are trying to persercute Dr Skinner for a) listening to patients b) Looking at their symptoms c) Actually helping people get better d) Saving the NHS a lot of money - with all the mis diagnosis that go on and the wasteful tablets/meds that are just dished out - as in my opinion this is a cop out.

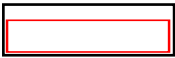
Not every person will fall under the "normal" blood test results. We all know this is only based on 95% reference - so what happens to the rest of us? We are just left fighting to find out what is wrong and costing the NHS many thousands/millions in the process.

I have to try and go back to work again next week. If I am unable to do so I have been told I will lose my job. Then I will be using more of this Country's money by having to claim benefits. This is a ridiculous circle. If GPs were to revert back to treating clinical symptoms then we would not have to go through all this un necessary problems and health issues.

I can honestly say that since seeing Dr Skinner I feel so much better. I was seeing my GP 2-3 times a week prior to this. I have not been to my GP for over a month now.

Dr Skinner is a wonderful Dr / man who is a credit to the profession and to the people he has helped.

regards



Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 22 February 2012 13:53
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: CASE NO: C1-462487326 - DR SKINNER

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur. Their contact details are as follows:

5 Great College Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3SJ
UK

Tel +44 (0)20 7222 7040
Fax +44 (0)20 7222 6208
Email: info@rlb-law.com

Yours sincerely

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 February 2012 21:27
To: IOP Team
Subject: CASE NO: C1-462487326 - DR SKINNER

case number C1-462487326

IN SUPPORT OF DR SKINNER

I am not a patient of Dr Skinner's but I am hoping to be soon. I was diagnosed hypothyroid [REDACTED] years ago and for most of that time I have still been experiencing hypothyroid symptoms.

I have complained to numerous GP's about [REDACTED] but was always fobbed off with - "your blood results are normal". One GP even told me it was all in my head!!! After all this time, and being at my wits end, I found the Thyroid UK Health Unlocked website. Thousands of people are complaining about the lack of treatment/help with their thyroid related symptoms despite being on Levothyroxine and being told their blood range is "normal".

Some people on there had experienced the same symptoms as me and I found out that it could be due to being undermedicated with Levothyroxine. So I asked my GP to trial me on a higher dose, because I had only ever been on [REDACTED] mcg. He gave me [REDACTED] mcg on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] weeks later my [REDACTED] Although I am still experiencing some thyroid related symptoms and am planning to go and see Dr Skinner soon.

Many people on that website have been helped to feel better following treatment by Dr Skinner!!!! In fact he is one of the few Drs in this country who is actually making a difference and making people feel better when the T4 only protocol is not working for so many. He listens, he cares and he does something about it. In my opinion (and the opinion of many others) this makes him an EXCELLENT doctor! He should be given a medal not hounded to oblivion!!!

I suggest you read the comments/experiences on the Thyroid UK Health Unlocked website because you will see that there is a rising tide of anger and frustration at the treatment (or rather lack of) that we receive from our GP's. There are new people joining on a daily basis, some of whom are newly diagnosed, others who may have had thyroid problems for longer but still feel ill, despite being on Levothyroxine and being told their tests results are 'normal'.

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 22 February 2012 13:54
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: DR SKINNER

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur. Their contact details are as follows:

5 Great College Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3SJ
UK

Tel +44 (0)20 7222 7040
Fax +44 (0)20 7222 6208
Email: info@rlb-law.com

Yours sincerely

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 February 2012 12:27
To: GMC Fitness to Practise
Subject: Fwd: DR SKINNER

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 22 February 2012 12:26
Subject: Fwd: DR SKINNER
To: [REDACTED]

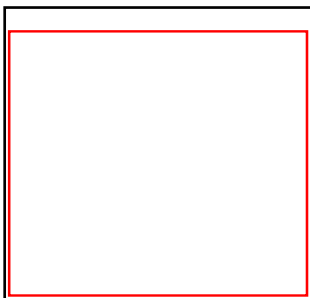
----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 22 February 2012 12:22
Subject: Fwd: DR SKINNER
To: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 22 February 2012 12:20
Subject: DR SKINNER
To: IOPTeam@gmc-uk.org

I am writing this email in support of Dr Skinner,
I have been ill for a couple of years and have been told by various gps that i do not have a thyroid problem despite having all the symptoms and thyroid antibodies, I had to leave my job due to ill health and was bed bound at times. I eventually saw Dr Skinner in [REDACTED] and was diagnosed with an underactive thyroid. I was prescribed Thyroxine. I now feel fantastic and am about to go back to work, Thanks to Dr Skinner i have my health and my sanity back. I think this witch hunt of Dr Skinner is disgraceful. He has helped many of us get our lives back when our gps and the GMC do not care. Dr Skinner cares about his patients and gps and the GMC have a lot to learn from this kind and caring man,



Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 22 February 2012 13:52
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Dr Skinner Case Number C1-462487326

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, the contents have been noted. Please note that as you have provided supportive testimony I have referred your email to Dr Skinner's representative at Radcliffes le Brasseur. Their contact details are as follows:

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Westminster
London SW1P 3SJ
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Yours sincerely

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council
Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 February 2012 19:26
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr Skinner Case Number C1-462487326
Importance: High

It is with alarm that I find myself having to write to defend the practice of Dr Skinner, whose intrepid work I have seen first-hand, time and again.

My wife suffers from [REDACTED] and has done so for many years, with the symptoms masking a quite profound (and hence undiagnosed) thyroid problem as well.

It wasn't until Dr Skinner's comprehensive and methodical analysis of her thyroid affliction last year that her health began to improve in a meaningful way under his care up to the present time.

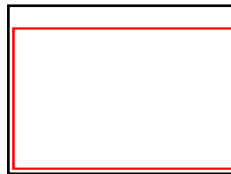
The loss of such a professional and caring Doctor--whose approach and communications have been nothing but entirely professional and measured--due to a seemingly singular and narrow-visioned approach by the GMC's "standard" proscribed thyroid analysis methodology, seems beyond the scientific and Hippocratic pale; indeed, the approach taken by Dr Skinner is accepted in many countries around the world, and had been standard practice in the UK for more years than the current blood-sample-range-only approach. Dr Skinner doesn't treat his patients in a

vacuum, and takes the time and effort to explore the issue within the context of the patients overall health and bearing, which is never a bad thing. Indeed, by a show of hands, could the committee find a dozen unhappy patients (or even a half-dozen)? I think not.

This current exercise seems instead a wayward endeavour by the GMC (and perhaps at the public's expense); sadly, I detect a sense of petty vindictiveness that the GMC otherwise oughtn't suffer gladly as the august body that it aspires to be.

I implore the committee to stop wasting time on this issue, and let the good doctor carry on in his thoughtful pursuits.

Sincerely,



20th February 2012

F.A.O. Heather Cook,
Investigating Officer,
Fitness to Practise Directorate,
General Medical Council,
3, Hardman Street,
MANCHESTER,
M3 3AW.

Copy F.A.O: Mr Ralf Shipway, Radcliffes le Brasseur (Solicitors), 5, Great College Street, WESTMINSTER,
London, SW1P 3SJ

Copy F.A.O: [Redacted]
for Dr. Gordon R B Skinner MD, DSc, FRCOG, FRC Path,

[Redacted]

Dear General Medical Council,

- * Dr Skinner, Listened to me, he heard me, understood, helped and supported me.
- * Dr Skinner saw me as a person, a human being that counts, an individual.
- * Dr Skinner was and still is my sanctuary.
- * Dr Skinner was there when the NHS let me down.
- * Dr Skinner gave me back my life, part of the reasons' as follows .
Because as a patient, based on my own personal experiences'. NHS pretended to listen, dismissed and rejected me
and my voice and words, refused to help me, fobbed me off.

For years, I was ill, I was in an awful state. My health was deteriorating, I was deteriorating, my life was
deteriorating, and my life has been terrible, horrible and awful, frustrating and distressing.

- * GOD KNOWS the good Dr Skinner has done.
- * I believe my unpleasant, distressing, neglected, abandoned experience with the NHS is just the TIP
of a Major Massive load of 'ICE BURGERS'.
- * There's no reason at all why the GMC and NHS could not learn from Dr Skinner.
- * GMC and NHS should work with and take heed from Dr Skinner's wisdom.
- * Life without Dr Skinner will be scary when the only other option is NHS at the helm.
- * Thank you Dr Skinner for having courage and self belief.
- * Thank you Dr Skinner for being you and the person you are.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From:
Sent: 17 February 2012 22:20
To: IOP Team
Subject: CI-46248732 - Dr Gordon Skinner

GMC

- Whose tune do you dance to?
- The GMC Panel cleared Gordon Skinner on 17 November 2011.
- As ever you bend to the power of *unbelievably* misguided Endocrinologists who exert *much 'persuasion'* over GPs to *pressure* their patients into 'reporting' Dr Skinner.
- This is an **OUTRAGEOUS** betrayal of both Dr Skinner and all his patients, who have worked ceaselessly to claim the right of correct treatment for their hypothyroidism.
- All credit to those patients currently withholding their identity details, under pressure, and even more to those patients who have vouched for Dr Skinner's treatment.
- GMC. Where is your moral and ethical compass?
- Do you act within the law or within your own wretched agenda?
- Do we need the FOIA to get to the bottom of this unseemly debacle?
- As a patient of Dr Skinner's who waited years for a correct diagnosis of hypothyroidism - always testing 'NORMAL' when very ill - **I SCREAM** at the inequity of this behaviour.
- Where can we find justice for a man who has the courage to stand up to Endocrinologists and the GMC when the GMC **sanctions** this denial of patients' rights?
- You respond only to power. You exhibit a sickening display of sycophancy instead of taking a stand and recognising the needs of legions of untreated patients.
- Patients matter not a jot.
- You terrify GPs. *They* see it for what it is. They **KNOW** the system is ALL WRONG but doing the right thing for their patients means they fear finding themselves where Dr Skinner is now.
- The Old Guard - the end game Endocrinologist dinosaurs - should stand down now and allow young blood to follow the logic of correct diagnosis and treatment for this benighted condition.
Tell them it is not a game they play with peoples' lives; it is their one and only LIFE that is so shamelessly discounted as worthless and cast aside.
- The dinosaurs have had their day.
- Recognise this.
- You have a duty of care to **ALL** the patients in need of treatment **NOW**. What is the General Medical Council if not an agent of protection? Please. Protect me and mine and all those held dear by the rest of

this desperate throng. We cannot wait forever for you to open your eyes to the great big medical scandal in your midst.

GMC. I despair that we have come to this point ALL OVER AGAIN. When will it end? How can I protect my hypothyroid family from what lies ahead if you trample on human rights and deny patients the right to be treated by Dr Skinner, who recognised their plight and returned them to optimal health??? You CANNOT do this to us all again and again. [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]
Through no fault of our own we are a hypothyroid family - but this matters not to the establishment. **Nothing matters to them, certainly not patients.**

GMC. LISTEN. HELP US. RECOGNISE THAT HYPOTHYROID DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT IS **FAILING** PATIENTS. DIAGNOSTIC BLOOD TESTS ARE NOT THE HOLY GRAIL, JUST A GUIDE.

GMC. I cannot believe that a body, supposedly caring and protective of patients, can continue to behave in this way. It beggars belief. It makes me weep. I cannot go on and ON and ON writing these damned letters - all to no avail.

Where can we turn for help?

Who is uncorrupted?

When will this hypothyroid nightmare end?

When will you take a grip? **When will you call to account those responsible for this dreadful state of affairs?**

I picture you smiling complacently at this hysterical rant - but ranting is all I have. Who cares? Not you. The distress and anguish of patients means nothing to you.

After all, it is just ***their blighted lives***, not ***yours***, or those of ***your family***. LUCKY YOU

[redacted]

17.02.12

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 February 2012 11:59
To: IOP Team
Subject: Case Number C1-462487326 Ref GRB Skinner IOP 22/02/2012

[REDACTED]
Sunday, 19 February 2012

To Whom it may concern:-

Ref Case Number C1-462487326 GRB Skinner

I am writing in support of Dr Gordon Skinner, who has been requested to appear before an Interim Orders Panel on Wednesday 22nd February 2012.

I have a number of concerns regarding this :-

- ❖ It seems very unfair (& against GMC policy) that the GMC has given Dr Skinner such short notice to prepare any defence for this hearing.
- ❖ The patients concerned in the recent complaints were NOT in any way involved in the complaints procedure & DID NOT give permission for this, or for their medical records to be accessed, which surely must be a contravention of the Data Protection Act & patient confidentiality.
- ❖ The GMC purports to protect the patient – “Our job is to protect you, the patient.” If this IS the case, then surely BEFORE any further action is taken, the PATIENTS involved in the complaint should be consulted by the GMC on THEIR opinions & views regarding the allegations. I understand that several of these patients are extremely concerned and angry that action has been taken without their prior knowledge or consent.
- ❖ It was only last November when a GMC panel determined that Dr Skinner was free to practice without restriction. The determination was based on careful analysis of Dr Skinner’s methods of working & the evidence provided from the vast amount of research available to support this.
- ❖ The panel were made aware of the huge amount of controversy regarding the diagnosis & management of patients with thyroid disease.

A recent thyroid forum created by the ‘talkhealthpartnership’ (partnered with NHS & British Thyroid Foundation), received an overwhelming response from members of the public affected by thyroid disease. Anyone reading the posts on the forum could not fail to be aware of the frustration, anger, helplessness & anguish of the patients who are being severely let down by current NHS treatments which are tantamount to abuse. I URGE the GMC to spend time reading these posts in order that the current situation can be understood from the patients perspective. After all it is the patients who are on the receiving end of all this.

As a member of a family devastated by thyroid disease, I have first hand experience of this lack of knowledge & understanding in the medical profession and am very concerned for the future of my 4 children, all of whom are affected by this disease.

- ❖ I have recently had cause to investigate the role of thyroid hormone in pregnancy & have become very aware of the lack of knowledge shown by GP’s in this area. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
In my experience and that of many others, this seems to be the case in all aspects of thyroid care!

Dr. Skinner is one of the very few doctors who understands the intricacies of thyroid disease & continually strives to help his patients by looking at all their symptoms as well as blood test results before making a judgement on their thyroid function.

- ❖ Are the GMC so blind that they cannot see that there is a campaign to discredit Dr. Skinner by any means. That Dr. Skinner, through all this, continues to put patient welfare before his own needs, is remarkable.

You should be embracing such a doctor, who at the age of is still fighting for some clarity in the correct diagnosis & treatment of thyroid disease.

Yours sincerely,

GMC -- "First Do No Harm"

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 February 2012 17:56
To: IOP Team
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: case number C1-462487326 hearing of Dr. Gordon B. Skinner

Dear Sir/Madam,

Even though we are not patients of Dr. Gordon B. Skinner, my husband and I would like to file a letter of support for Dr. Skinner, who – we hear – has once again been summoned to justify himself against spurious allegations made by five of his colleagues.

From what we can gather, those five GP's appear to be in serious breach of patient confidentiality as well as the Data Protection Act, as none of them had sought permission from their respective patients to divulge their names or medical records to the GMC, nor indeed have any of their patients made a complaint against the treatment they have received from Dr. Skinner. We would like to see those doctors be brought to justice for breaking the law and harassing a colleague for reasons best known to themselves.

Both my husband and I have met Dr. Skinner on several occasions over the years and not only is he extraordinary knowledgeable in the diagnostic and treatment of thyroid disease, but he is caring deeply about his patients. The allegations brought against him are ludicrous and this hearing a terrible waste of our public money. How much longer is this witch hunt against Dr. Skinner going to continue?

My husband and I fully support Dr. Skinner and wish we could attend his hearing in person. This won't be possible, but I know we speak for countless patients when we say that Dr. Skinner has our continuing trust and very best wishes for a favourable outcome.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

Sarah Leigh (0161 923 6398)

From: Emma Green (0161 923 1809)
Sent: 09 March 2012 08:53
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: 0726922 - Dr Skinner

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Elisa

We've had this email supporting Dr Skinner.

Thanks

Emma

Emma Green
Senior Contact Centre Advisor
Registration Directorate
General Medical Council
Telephone: 0161 923 6602
Website: www.gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04/03/2012 21:56:25
To: <gmc@gmc-uk.org>
Subject: Dr Skinner

Dear Ms Jackson

I hope you can help me. I was diagnosed in [REDACTED] with an underactive thyroid. Prior to that I had lots of other health issues and investigations which would have cost the NHS a lot of money. I was always told that my blood levels were within range. I know my own body, I knew all was not well. Finally my blood tests came back out of range after [REDACTED]. I have since requested my results and discovered that previous blood test results would have warranted treatment in America. I was then treated with levothyroxine, I felt slightly better but I have never felt 100%. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I enjoy my work and want to continue but I have felt extremely ill on occasions and worry about my future, I am only [REDACTED]. Some people are worse than myself. All the GP's I have been in contact with have little knowledge of thyroid conditions. People are inadequately treated, if you go on to Thyroid UK you will find that people are not adequately treated. People are given levothyroxine which is not always the best option. Levothyroxine may be cheap but people are very ill some are even suicidal. They are treated inappropriately with anti-depressants. People who have untreated or inadequately treated thyroid conditions can develop diabetes, obesity, heart disease, arthritis, dementia the list goes on. People have to finish work because of these conditions. Very little concern is given to hypothyroidism unlike diabetes. The disease is just as debilitating. Some doctors like doctor Skinner are trying to improve the situation for people like myself. I have never seen the man but he gets very good reports. This is because he listens and gives alternatives which is more than anything offered on the NHS (from my experience). Surely it makes sense to look at alternative treatments this will save more money in the long run. The patients will have a better quality of life and will hopefully stop feeling that they are living a walking, talking coma. This description may seem harsh but this is our reality. I am not sure if this

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:35
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr. Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 May 2012 14:09
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr. Skinner

Dear Mrs Summerfield,

I am writing to you as a thyroid patient. I was diagnosed at the age of [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] and I am always being told how young I am to have this diagnosis. I will be [REDACTED] years old when Dr Skinner will be in front of the committee, and it is only this year that I have started to realise that my thyroid disease is not the end of my 'life' and I no longer have to just exist.

Dr Skinner has shown so many thyroid patients that there are other ways to treat this illness, when the standard medication doesn't change what is going on in our bodies at all. Infact although my TSH and T4 levels come back within normal range, my antibodies go through the roof when I am on levothyroxine, which is the standard treatment, as it is like adding water to a chip pan fire, it makes this illness worse. I lost my last job because of this illness, which as it stands is untreated, because the blood level ranges seem to be wrong.

I praise Doctor Skinner for seeing us as patients, and not a number with some blood test results. He is a prime example of what is missing in Modern medicine, as we are not all text book cases. More Doctors need to use their brains, just as Dr Skinner does, and see that joining the dots in a patients ailments not only treats the disease, but gives them something very important back. LIFE.

Thank you for taking the time to read this

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:33
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW:

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From:
Sent: 11 May 2012 19:08
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject:

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on! He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

Regards/

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:34
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: dr Gordon Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2012 21:17
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: dr Gordon Skinner

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on! He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:35
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner's hearing No.ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 May 2012 16:04
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Fw: Dr Skinner's hearing No.ES/C1-462487326

>-----Original Message-----

>From: [REDACTED]
>Date:
12/05/2012 15:56
>To: <esummerfield@gmc-uk.org>
>Subj: Dr Skinner's hearing No.ES/C1-462487326
>

>Dear Madam,
> i am writing a

testimonial in defence of Dr Skinner who has another GMC hearing on 24th May. I have been his patient since [REDACTED] and all I can ever do is defend him and speak well of him as a doctor. I did not get well on thyroxine and he prescribed Armour thyroid, without which I would not have been able to bring up my son or work. I will be on this for the rest of my life and need him to prescribe it for me. The endocrinologist at [REDACTED] hospital was in agreement with Dr Skinner's treatment, also my GP.

>Dr Skinner does not seem to be popular among some GPs!! Because he does not rely totally on blood test result numbers and listens to how his patients actually feel, he is criticised. Hypothyroidism is a totally debilitating illness-I have been bedridden, physically and mentally ill because of it, and Dr Skinner has helped me so much. For his patients, he is often a total saviour. Often people have gone for years without being diagnosed, or if diagnosed, have not got better.

> I am very worried that Dr Skinner is being unfairly 'witch hunted'. He keeps on being called before the GMC for a hearing. Each time he provides meticulous proof and justification for his methods of diagnosis and treatment of patients and is then exonerated. If so many people have been helped so much by Dr Skinner, why is the medical profession not taking on board the fact that there needs to be a complete re-appraisal of the diagnosis and treatment of hypothyroidism and that Dr Skinner is way ahead in his understanding of the needs of his patients. There was a motion in the Scottish parliament recently calling for the treatment of hypothyroidism to be reassessed-in fact calling for less reliance on blood test

result numbers and for more reliance on symptoms and how the patient feels.in my opinion, Dr Skinner has to be praised, rather than condemned in any way. i have never met such a hard-working and concerned doctor.
>Please listen to his patients.

> Thank-you

> Yours sincerely,

> 

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:36
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Gordon R B Skinner MD [Hons] DSc FRCPath FRCOG

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 May 2012 23:41
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr Gordon R B Skinner MD [Hons] DSc FRCPath FRCOG

May 12th 2012

Interim Orders Panel

Case Number ES/C1-462487326

To Whom It May Concern

Dr Gordon R B Skinner

I am absolutely appalled that once again the GMC sees fit to waste time, money and manpower on calling Dr Skinner to account for his treatment of patients with Hypothyroidism [of which it must be noted he has many]. Who one wonders are the people responsible for this continuing witch hunt setting out to destroy this knowledgeable and caring Doctor.

I first sought out Dr Skinner over [REDACTED] years ago when the use of Thyroxine as it was then proved useless in my treatment of Hypothyroidism. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] years later my many symptoms and blood tests showed Hypothyroidism and I was duly prescribed the useless Thyroxine. This did not work as T4 alone is pointless in my case and gradually eroded my health and still I had many classic symptoms of the disease. So I sought a way to try and improve my general poor health as the prescribed NHS drug certainly was not doing the job. Then Dr Skinner came into my life and after a first consultation he prescribed Armour Thyroid the drug used with a good outcome for many years before the advent of the useless thyroxine and I am pleased to say this made me so much better. All this was achieved in a professional manner with blood tests and regular GP and Dr Skinner visits. I also might add here, at my own expense as the NHS seems unable and unwilling to prescribe this natural product, I wonder why? Dr Skinner took time at my consultations to ask me many questions about my health over the years and what illnesses etc I had suffered so he could have the whole picture of my health and any issues I might have.

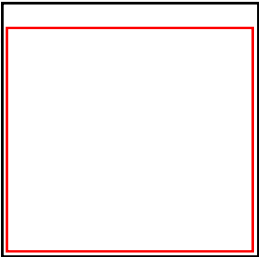
Now all these years along the line I have solely Dr Skinner to thank for my return to health indeed my present GP seems to have no idea how to treat me and has become rude and condescending about my use of Natural Dessicated Thyroid, is this because she has had no offer of shares in the company or free holidays and other tantalising offers that I know the huge drug companies use to bribe the medical profession.

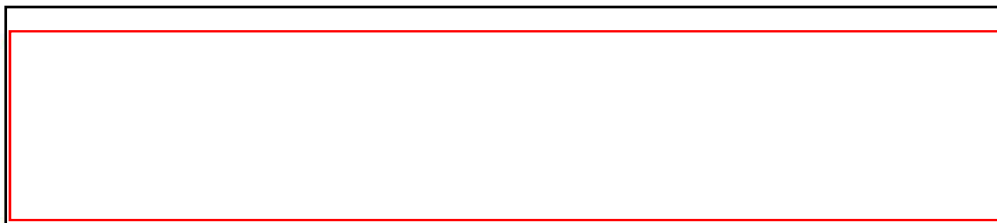
For too long now the GMC and other medical bodies have ignored and derided Dr Skinner, is this because they prefer to see their patients suffering from long term disabilities from lack of thyroid hormones or is it because

overridingly Hypothyroidism is mainly a disease suffered by females ? I think it is time for the GMC and the other medical bodies to realise that we are losing faith with these levothyroxine drugs which in many patients are worse than useless and in some cases actually harmful. We are also losing faith with GP's who do not seem to know enough about the Greater Thyroid system and how it works. Time for these Doctors to do more than read a thyroid function test and time for them to actually look at their patients and dare I say it, ask the right questions. Time too to train the student Doctors on the Thyroid System in proper detail and seek more upto date knowledge from the likes of Dr Skinner. Dr Skinner has always been precise and correct in his procedures and in his application of medicine to us his patients. Why are you all so frightened of his actions when he is helping many people to realise their optimum health and improve their lives which results in less visits to our GP's and less reliance on the many unnecessary drugs prescribed for all the vague symptoms which are in actual fact untreated Hypothyroidism.

Please see common sense on this issue and please stop this awful witch hunt on Dr Skinner. Its time to call it a day once and for all and begin to ask him what the medical establishment can learn from him and his many years of successful treatment of his numerous grateful patients.

In support, once again of a wonderful and caring Doctor,





IOP Panel
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

Case No. ES/C1-462487326

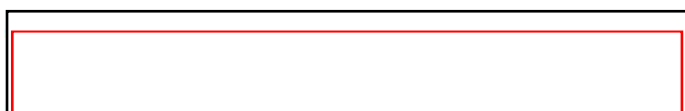
In support of Dr G. B. Skinner MD (Hons), DSc, FRCOG, FRCPath

GMC No. 0726922

I wish it to be recorded in writing that I fully support Dr. Gordon Skinner in his practice of prescribing to people like myself who suffer from an Underactive Thyroid when sadly; I am unable to be treated by my NHS GP satisfactorily? In the years Dr Skinner has been treating me, my life has literally turned around. Where previously I was always tired, ill with something, and unable to function on a daily basis and getting worse, my GP only wanted to treat me with , and ignored all my other signs and symptoms. Even though I showed all the signs and symptoms of an Underactive Thyroid they would not accept that I had a problem because my BLOOD TEST said so! Even with extremely HIGH Thyroid Antibodies?

Dr Skinner has treated me for an Underactive Thyroid with the care and attention to detail I would have wished from my own GP.

I now have a life which I can enjoy with friends and family which was not available to me before Dr Skinner's effective treatment.



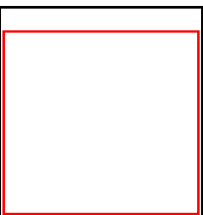
Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:32
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Letter of support for Dr Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2012 15:08
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter of support for Dr Skinner



11th May 2012

To Whom it may concern

Re:- Dr Skinner

I have read that Dr Skinner has again been called up for an IOP hearing for the General Medical Council and I am writing to give my Support to the wonderful Dr Skinner

I first went to see Dr Skinner in [REDACTED], and at this time [REDACTED] I had a whole list of hypothyroid symptoms and was very, very ill. My doctors throughout the years have just told me test results were normal. An Endocrinologist stated that I had a normal 'TSH' and I didn't have hypothyroidism when I was referred to him in [REDACTED]. A whole rack of blood tests were ordered that day, however, Professor [REDACTED] the endocrinologist has never given these blood results to either my GP, Dr Skinner or myself even though we have all asked for them [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

For many years when querying the eternal tiredness and other symptoms too numerous to list I have been told I am depressed as my TSH is normal, I have had to suffer a GP losing his temper at me when I queried my symptoms and an endocrinologist tell me he cannot help me because I am stressed.

At no point over the past [REDACTED] years has a Doctor actually helped me find out the cause of my symptoms, told me any 'TSH' numbers (just that it is within normal range) or looked further to my ever growing list of

symptoms and problems. Never has any further blood test been performed FT4, FT3, reverse T3, TgAb etc. If I had a pound for every time I have been told to eat less and exercise more I would be a rich lady.

I felt my life was OVER, I had to give up work [redacted] because of the long list of symptoms and the pain I had all day every day. The list of prescriptions I had to help various symptoms was around twelve!!!

Dr Skinner listened and asked about my incredibly long list of Hypothyroid Symptoms, [redacted]
[redacted] He even helped me out the chair in the waiting room [redacted] Dr Skinner agreed I had a long list of Hypothyroid symptoms and started me off on a low dose of Levothyroxine. This was steadily increased every few weeks and now 90% of all my symptoms have been eradicated. Yes I still have a little way to go, but I have just started to work again and I can stay awake all day now and do things other people without illness can do. My prescription list now is three.

In my mind it should be the GPs and Endocrinologists who have failed with my care over the years and left me to get so seriously ill without any further exploration or query that should be made to sit in front of the GMC panel, NOT DR SKINNER who has saved my life.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:32
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner ES/C1-462487326.

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2012 15:05
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Re: Dr Skinner ES/C1-462487326.

To whom it may concern

In full support of Dr G Skinner ES/C1-462487326.

I am horrified, once again, to have heard from many people across the UK, and indeed outside it, that once again the very professional work of Dr Skinner is under your totalitarian spotlight again. No doubt I will not have a reply, as having once done my bit for the community and written to yourselves on behalf of my own family and also enclosing countless letters from others - I was labelled vexatious. Some aspects of your organization's behaviour do appear to me as a disabled non driving woman, very predictable. For instance patients who complain become vexatious, or perhaps groups of women coming together to try and get help, perhaps being thought of as doing it out of spite... rather than rightfully being frightened because of perceived attitudes regarding your organization. I repeat, before including my previous unanswered letter below. I find it very unsavoury that in the year of 2012, I have never to date heard one good thing about the GMC either from medical staff, or the public. This is shocking, you seem to appear to myself and many as a sort of poisoned arm of the DOH, there to almost serve and safeguard bad institutional behaviour within PCT's. The culture of whistleblowers being supported in the UK is horrendous, you could be setting a dignified example with this, and as for being a member of the public and trying to converse with your sugar coated website - well what a total waste of effort for ill people - contacting you desperate for help due to bullying, bad practice or worse.

So what can be done to change the appalling reputations of our organizations in the UK... the widespread perception beyond from myself is:

1. A good doctor who sticks up for patients and is not in the pocket of big pharma is not supported by your organization, rather the opposite, as lets face it, in the case of Dr Skinner, it almost appears to me as a non professional woman, due to 5 autoimmune conditions, that there is some behind the scenes ganging up going on, (lets encourage doctors to complain, as the public think the GMC is wrong), this appears in my mind to be another insidious form of bullying.

2. Frequently it appears to the public and wider community that complained about bad apples in your medical barrel... get off scot free, and the patients or medical colleagues are trounced with loss of care or career.

I have met many excellent medical staff during my life time, past and present, and I would ask you as modern member of the public well aware that we NOT residing in Victorian patriarchal Britain, to aid and assist Dr Skinner with his excellent work, as we have lost to many good doctors who understand the full working form of the endocrine system. Testing for thyroid issues in this country is wrong, and I believe many know that, the tests are failing the patients, not the patients failing the tests.

3. I would also wish you all to re read the Hippocratic Oath, as something has gone wrong with attitudes which are from the top down. Including what I would describe as 'Fitness to Listen'.

If Doctor Skinner, like many of his colleagues for instance [redacted] can help people get better and offer them a choice of treatment and more detailed tests, so be it, let them. Or is it simply that all organizations must live in the pocket of big pharma whilst pretending not to do so. Think of the money lost if a large percentage of disabled or depressed people could come of those antidepressants which are not working for cases of genuine hypothyroid.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyc8N_mwMNY

However I will also put this point to you. We are living in stringent times.. and I feel your organization is wasting UK money. Patients left to get iller and iller with untreated thyroid issues, end up in hospital, or needing care, this is way more expensive than allowing patients a choice of treatment. Thyroxine does NOT work for many, and the levels are set wrong. Give people a choice.

May I remind you of this: in view of doctors being too reliant on tests: Tests should be part of an examination, the art of real examination is slipping away from doctors! Stop throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

I wish Dr Skinner all the best for his next appointment with you - which of course will cost yet more time and money and less care for patients. The eyes of UK patients are upon this case, and we are well read on many others.

I do not wish to insult anybody or nitpick with individuals, but really your organization appears to an outsider to be very very off colour.

Kind Regards

[redacted]

cc of my original letter below:

From: [redacted]
To: iopteam@gmc-uk.org
Subject: RE: Dr Skinner: CI - 462487326
Date: Wed, 22 Feb 2012 08:55:11 +0000

To Whom it may concern

I have been following the case of Dr Skinner CI - 462487326

Once again as a member of the public, a mother of children and the wife [REDACTED], I am left astounded by the behaviour and lack of joined up thinking with regard to the way your organization conducts itself. I feel an increasing sense of unease whenever any article regarding the GMC either comes up in conversation, in the papers or indeed on any form of the media. I have also followed the case of [REDACTED] closely, and was truly horrified, which I believe was a mirrored reaction across the UK and beyond. There are very over used phrases floating around currently, such as 'lessons learned' or lessons will be learnt etc. I also noted that after the Shipman Inquiry things were supposed to change regarding patients being listened to, or indeed brave medical staff reporting on peers/colleagues, when we all understand that whistleblowing frameworks do not protect medical staff or indeed the patients. I feel that this petition is a good step in the right direction.

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/5741>

I hope you will see, as so called professional academics: albeit working in a culture dominated by big pharma, that you will see sense and stop treating Dr Skinner with such contempt for his excellent work. The public are ever more knowledgeable about the pharmaceutical industry's stranglehold over the medical profession and the world in general. Also somewhere along the way, your very organization appears to be undermining the hippocratic oath. Doctor Skinner is treating patients, and for some it is their only hope, there should be more like him, able to use their very careful and well trained intelligence to help people back to some sort of normal health, which of course saves lives, money and dignity. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The ridiculous notion that the blood tests for thyroid disorders are 100 percent accurate has been proved over and over again not to be the case. Doctors are being encouraged partly by your organization to only rely on tests and have forgotten the art of examination.

As a patient myself with [REDACTED] my quality of life was greatly diminished and my children's health put at risk, after I was encouraged to make a complaint to your organization about a very very well known problem in my community, your failure to act professionally in our case, left us wide open to further bullying from the PCT and other bodies, thankfully something put behind us now as some very professional organizations came to our rescue and also many letters from my community were written mirroring our experience. You may wonder why I bring up my own disappointment with your organization - I suppose as an example, I really worry about your 'Fitness to Listen' I was warned from by so many professionals, individuals and organizations that my complaint about a particular surgery, would go through the motions but that you usually found the public vexatious. I find it shocking in this day and age, that right across the UK and beyond, from all types of profession, individuals, classes and groups, that I have never heard one positive reaction when the name GMC is

mentioned. I do not understand how your organization are could be so prepared to settle for such unpopularity or suspicion regarding it's perceived working practices. I hope this changes.

So here we are again, with the GMC appearing to be not acting in the best interest of Dr Skinner or his patients. I wonder at which stage the GMC will modernize and safeguard it's seemingly forgotten hippocrattic oath.

I have met many good medical people, and my awful experience with contacting your organization for supposed help, which amounted to nothing, has not dented my opinion of individual medical staff who do try and help with my complicated medical history.

I remain bitterly disappointed regarding the GMC and hope the witch hunt surrounding Doctor Skinner can cease.

I wish Dr Skinner the best of luck with his career and note the mounting support for his very good working practices

Yours faithfully

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:35
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP Panel : Dr. Skinner : Case No: ES/C1-462487326 (24th May 2012)

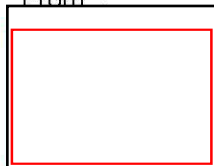
Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 May 2012 18:43
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: IOP Panel : Dr. Skinner : Case No: ES/C1-462487326 (24th May 2012)

Please note that the letter below has been sent by surface mail:-

From :



To :
IOP Panel,
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield,
General Medical Council,
3 Hardman Street,
Manchester
M3 3AW.

Date: 12th May 2012
Case No: ES/C1-462487326 (24th May 2012)

Dear Madam,

This letter is written in support of Dr Skinner with respect to the subject case number above.

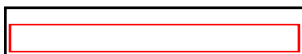
We are distressed to learn that Dr Skinner has yet again to appear before IOP Panel. We write having first hand knowledge and experience of Dr Skinner's practice with respect to Hypothyroidism and we can categorically state that in all our dealings with Dr Skinner he has always behaved with the utmost propriety. What's more, he has always been scrupulously honest and forthright with us, particularly in respect to his position with the GMC. Clearly his procedures conform absolutely to those prescribed by the GMC to ensure that there is a paper trail for all his patients.

Dr Skinner provides a unique service to his patients and is almost alone in providing a haven for those unfortunate enough to suffer from the effects of Hypothyroidism. We speak with experience when asserting that without Dr Skinner's practice there would be nowhere for sufferers to turn if it was not for the service he so necessarily provides. We have had to endure years of suffering as a result of non and mis-diagnosis until at last finding the haven that is Dr Skinner's practice.

We have seen at first hand the care and dedication that Dr Skinner shows towards his patients, if only NHS GP's showed the same kind of care, attention and dedication when it comes to the well being of their patients! The loss of Dr Skinners practice would be an absolute catastrophe for his current patients but more importantly to those who are now suffering, but have yet to find a solution.

It seems to us that there is some kind of vendetta being perpetrated against Dr Skinner. Surely it is about time the GMC considered their position in respect to Dr Skinner generally and to ask themselves "is it necessary to continually repeat these hearings". What a waste!

Yours faithfully



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:35
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr skinner case number es/ci-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 May 2012 16:46
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr skinner case number es/ci-462487326

I would like this letter included in Dr skinner`s interim order hearing on the 24th may 2012.

I have been successfully treated by Dr skinner while inside the Reference interval with a TSH of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] My symptoms were many and included [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I owe my good health to Dr skinner who was able treat me and not to my own GP who told me i did not have anything wrong, and she was unable to help me. my quality of life was poor and Dr Skinner gave me back my life.

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:32
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Gordon Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2012 17:19
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Gordon Skinner

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on! He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:34
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Gordon Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2012 22:55
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr Gordon Skinner

Please,

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on! He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

I myself was severely ill in hypothyroidism for [REDACTED] years [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] before I got treatment. This because of the way this disease is currently diagnosed only by the TSH-value and not by symtoms and other examinations. Please don't punish the few doctors who are truly helping patients get their life back earlier than in my case.

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:34
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Gordon Skinner IOP 24th May 2012 ES/C1-462487326.

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2012 22:05
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr Gordon Skinner IOP 24th May 2012 ES/C1-462487326.

Dear Mrs Summerfield,

[REDACTED]

I note that this is the umpteenth IOP that Dr. Skinner has had to attend. I am absolutely sick and tired of the GMC's behaviour in this matter. Where is the justice in repeatedly pursuing the same false allegations originating from the same anonymous quacks? The doctor is found innocent so you try and try and try again? On the other hand patient's complaints to the GMC are repeatedly ignored, patients are treated as if they are a piece of dirt.

Over the years doctor Skinner's patients have been put through enormous distress and expense as a consequence of your organisation's repeated abuse. This has to stop. I intend to submit a full expense claim for attending this IOP. This harassment has gone on long enough. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:34
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW:

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2012 21:06
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject:

Dear Sirs,

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on! He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

I was diagnosed with hypothyroidism [REDACTED] years ago and put on standard thyroxine treatment. [REDACTED]

As I was fortunate enough to live in [REDACTED] at the time, I ended up with [REDACTED] after [REDACTED] years of absolute misery. He prescribed natural thyroid hormones, cortisol and sex hormones. After a few weeks, I had my life back!

Today, I am a completely different person thanks to Dr. [REDACTED] and the doctors he has trained over the years.

I cannot for the life of me understand why doctors would deny me natural hormones, while at the same time prescribing [REDACTED] ..you name it. I've been treated for every ailment known to mankind, but it wasn't until I was prescribed natural thyroid hormones and other natural hormones that my symptoms began to subside and eventually disappear.

Today, I am happy, healthy, working full-time (having a very demanding full-time job as a simultaneous interpreter) and feeling just great!! I am determined never to go back to where I was [REDACTED] years ago!

Thankfully, I still live close to [redacted] and can go back there for follow-up. But I wish that every European citizen had the same possibilities that I do. Good medical care and excellent treatment should not be reserved for those who have the time, energy and money (and sometimes linguistic skills) to travel across half of Europe to find a doctor to help them and take them seriously; doctors like Drs. [redacted] and Skinner should be the norm and not the exception!

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:33
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Case number ES/C1-462487326 Interim Orders Panel Hearing on the 24th May 2012 / Dr. Gordon B Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2012 20:22
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Case number ES/C1-462487326 Interim Orders Panel Hearing on the 24th May 2012 / Dr. Gordon B Skinner

11th May 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

Case Number ES/C1-462487326

Again my husband and I want to file a letter of our unwavering support for Dr. Gordon Skinner, who has been summoned to justify himself against spurious allegations by harassing colleague(s) once more on 24th May 2012.

How much longer will public money be squandered on such pointless hearings? It is perfectly transparent to everyone involved what motivates those doctors to report Dr. Skinner to the GMC. Why is the GMC allowing such harassment? It had previously been established that the patient in question never had cause for complaint about the treatment she received from Dr. Skinner. It is equally clear that the doctor(s) who brought charges against Dr. Skinner were breaking patient confidentiality. Why have they not been brought to justice?

Both my husband and I know Dr. Skinner to be an outstanding doctor with extraordinary knowledge in the diagnostic and treatment of thyroid disease. He cares deeply for his patients and – as far as we know - has never harmed any of them. The allegations brought against him are ludicrous and this hearing is a terrible waste of public money. The GMC is supposed to set out the principles and values on which good medical practice is founded. Can the GMC really claim this shameful conspiracy to be of any value and in the best interest of a patient who does not even claim to have been let down by anyone other than the very doctor who brought those charges against Dr. Skinner, who is an excellent doctor and has done nothing wrong, but is a thorn in some less knowledgeable colleagues' sides? Is this the kind of 'professionalism in action' that the GMC is upholding?

My husband and I fully support Dr. Skinner and wish we could attend his hearing in person. This won't be possible, but I know we speak for countless patients when we say that Dr. Skinner has our continuing best wishes and trust and we hope for the charges to be dropped.

Sincerely yours,

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:32
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW:

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2012 17:10
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336); [REDACTED] IOP Team
Subject:

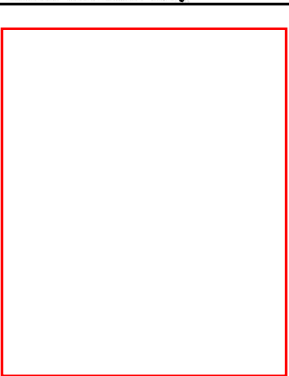
Hi.

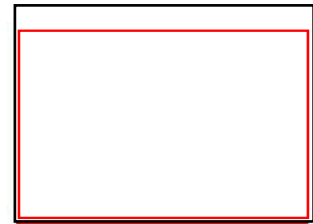
The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on! He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

[REDACTED]

Have nice day





11th May 2012

Mrs. Elisa Summerfield
IOP Panel
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

Re. Dr. Gordon Skinner
ES/C1-462487326
24th May, 2012

In 2007, I wrote a testimonial for Dr. Skinner's Fitness to Practise Hearing. My gratitude to Dr. Skinner is still the same today as it was then and I will always be grateful to him for his diagnosis and subsequent treatment of my illness.

Dr. Skinner started me on Thyroxine, but later changed my prescription to Armour Thyroid and from that moment on, my recovery was complete.

I strongly believe had it not been for him, that I would have certainly been on state benefits as I would have been unfit for work, whereas I completed my degree and went into full time employment. I have also been able to enjoy life, something I was unable to do for many years.

My GP now prescribes Armour Thyroid for me.

Dr. Skinner gave me back my life.

Yours sincerely

A rectangular box with a red border, indicating a redacted signature.

Copied to A rectangular box with a red border, indicating a redacted area.

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:35
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner

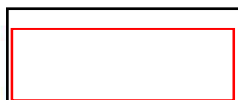
Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 May 2012 11:54
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr Skinner

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on! He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:32
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: ES/C1-462487326 Dr Gordon Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2012 17:12
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: ES/C1-462487326 Dr Gordon Skinner

To Whom it may concern,

I am staggered that you are once again calling Dr Skinner to an IOP - it is a disgrace. I am frankly appalled at this continued harassment of Dr Skinner which is little more than a witch hunt. And I will continue, as will many others, to protest at the GMC's shocking persecution of a respected and experienced specialist in this field.

I am one of the patients that has been returned to full health through the treatment I have had from Dr Skinner after being written off by the NHS, perhaps the GMC would be wiser to spend their time challenging the Endocrinologists who insist on following the TSH test to the letter and refuse to even consider that the TSH might not be a good indication of a thyroid problem.

I cannot fully express how much Dr Skinner has changed my life - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was in serious danger of losing my job and had given up all hope. Then I found Dr Skinner and I can safely say he is the sole reason that I am in this healthy, active and happy state - I certainly would not be like this if it was up to the NHS.

I had [REDACTED] and have had a variety of symptoms ever since, which increased in severity [REDACTED] years ago to the point I was virtually unable to function and was in danger of losing my job. My mother has had a partial thyroidectomy and has been diagnosed with Hashimoto's, and my father also is being treated for hypothyroidism. I also live in [REDACTED] where we have had fluoride in the water since I was born - given that fluoride was used to treat hyperthyroid patients prior to the 1970's it is known to suppress the thyroid.

My TSH was [REDACTED] therefore within the 'normal' range. This was before starting treatment and it is now suppressed at [REDACTED] and has been for [REDACTED].

I am now taking [REDACTED] mcg thyroxine and [REDACTED] grains of Erfa (Natural desiccated thyroid) and I am well for the first time in years.

Had it been left to the NHS I would have lost my job and I would be permanently ill and a burden to the state and the NHS.

Because I have been treated by Dr Skinner I have my life back.

I cannot praise Dr Skinner highly enough for his treatment of me and I admire him for holding his ground and sticking to his beliefs when doctors who do not fully understand hypothyroidism are completely against him and basically out to get him. Without him I would be condemned to a life of misery by the NHS. instead I have my life back much to the delight of my children, husband and family.

Regards.

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:35
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Gordon Skinner. IOP 24th May 2012.

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 May 2012 09:53
To: Customer Service Manager
Cc: Niall Dickson (020 7189 5291); Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336); [REDACTED]
healthcom@parliament.uk
Subject: Dr Gordon Skinner. IOP 24th May 2012.

Dear Ms Couchman,

RE: Dr Gordon Skinner

I write in support of the an excellent clinician and friend Dr Gordon Skinner. I have been following his case with great interest. I consider the General Medical Council to be vindictively persecuting this doctor with the intend of purposely damaging his reputation. In doing so, the GMC is itself compromising patient safety/care.

This is of course not a new phenomena exhibited by the General Medical Council. We have also viewed it in technicolour during your baseless and pointless harassment of Dr [REDACTED] Dr [REDACTED] Dr [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Dr [REDACTED], Dr [REDACTED] amongst many others. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The case concerning Dr Skinner consists of the GMC's gross mismanagement, recklessness, negligence and a disproportionate expenditure of doctors subscription fees. It also demonstrates the GMC's partisan and biased outlook supporting nefarious vexatious complainants against this doctor. As the GMC is aware, it is being sued by [REDACTED] for similar mismanagement and gross incompetence. It is not impossible that Dr Skinner may follow the same path following the GMC's current short sighted behaviour.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It is clear that the GMC persecutes doctors who care for their patients but allows doctors who end lives to go free - to practise in other countries. [REDACTED]

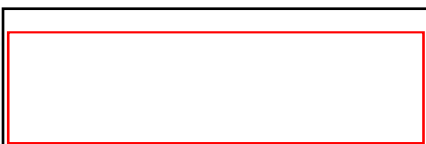
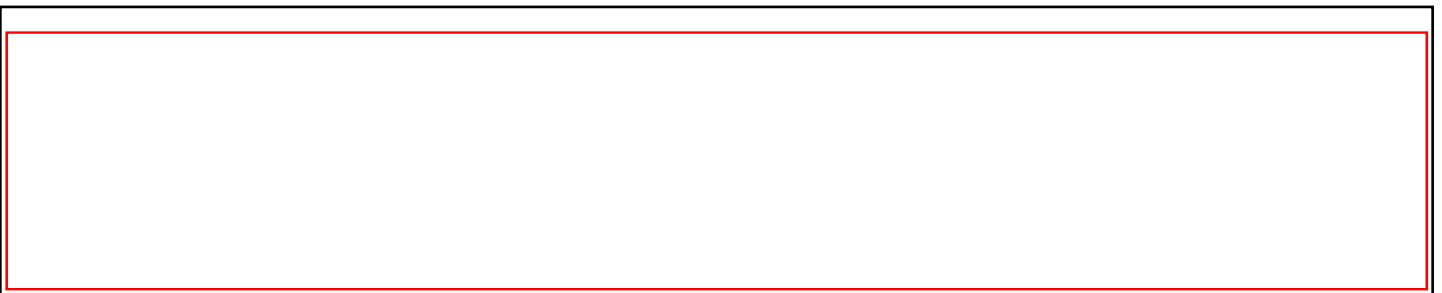
[REDACTED]

In Dr Skinner's case, there has never been any fault in his clinical acumen or conduct. The GMC's obsessive scrutiny of his practise is now compromising patient care and distressing those who do benefit from his management. This does not meet the public interest test. As the GMC is aware, medicine as demonstrated by Hippocrates does not only follow one rule and the human body is not necessarily reactive to mainstream management. I believe the General Medical Council should demonstrate their ability to understand clinical medicine as applied to patients instead of advertising their current narrow minded, obtuse and conservative approach to treatment.

No doctor [who funds the GMC] approves of the current persecution of Dr Gordon Skinner. As such, the current action by yourselves is a gross misuse of charity funds. I hope the GMC will instigate a immediate review into this case due to its own failures to manage it fairly. Moreover, the Interim Order Panel [as we both know, these were always unlawful and a breach of a doctors human rights] should be terminated so further funds are not wasted. It is time the GMC ceased their persecution of Dr Skinner before the case becomes damaging to the failing reputation of the GMC.

I believe Dr Skinner's patients, the public and the doctors would prefer a regulatory body whose conduct resembles a fair and just organisation. At present, the GMC's conduct is demonstrated as that of a totalitarian regime. Then Harris HHJ did refer to the GMC as a "totalitarian regime" in Pal v GMC 2004. It is currently conducting itself with the talents of a oppressive Spanish Inquisition.

Regards



IOP Panel,
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield,
General Medical Council,
3 Hardman Street,
Manchester M3 3AW.

case number for IOP on the 24th May ES/C1-462487326

11th May 2012

Dear Mrs Summerfield

I am writing in support of Dr Gordon Skinner as I understand that he is to go before the GMC again. My daughter is a patient of Dr Skinner's, she was eventually diagnosed after a long illness, with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the NHS refuse to see that her ill health could be due to her medication causing side effects or not converting effectively for her & her bloods not reflecting her symptoms and have said they can do nothing else for her and that at [REDACTED] she will have to accept that she will not be able to work full time or ever feel properly well.

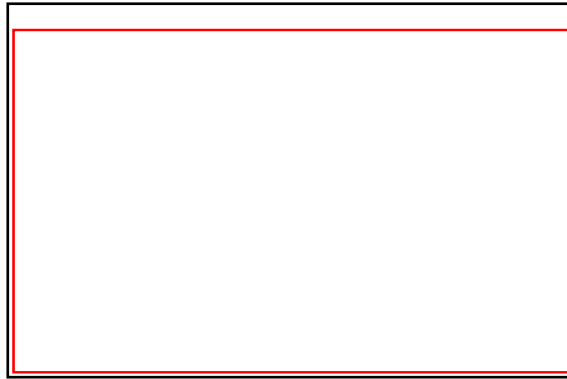
Unable as parents to sit back and accept this prognosis we have sought the help of Dr Skinner who has allowed [REDACTED] to try Erfa Thyroid (natural desiccated Thyroid hormone), it is still early days for her but she is doing better than she ever has in the past [REDACTED] years. Our GP is fully supportive of Dr Skinner's care of [REDACTED] & he writes and updates her regularly about [REDACTED]'s progress. Her bloods are routinely checked at our surgery & we send the results up to Dr Skinner so everyone concerned in [REDACTED]'s care is up to date and kept well informed.

We feel that Dr Skinner has been a lifeline for [REDACTED] as our GP was open to try a different route but needed someone with more knowledge to guide her in offering the best care for her patient, sadly it seems some GP's are not so open minded and seem content to let their wrongly diagnosed/under medicated Thyroid patients slip through the net and live half a life.

We as a family fully support Dr Skinner in his pioneering approach to Thyroid disease and his duty of care to his patients in getting them well and symptom free using all options available.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]



12th May 2012

Reference ES/C1-462487326

To the IOP Team

I am not a patient of Dr Skinner as yet but as a member of the Thyroid Patients Advocacy, I am constantly aware that many people continue to achieve full recovery under his care and dedication so I would wish to fully support his practice. He is doing great work in a very difficult medical climate.

I am trying to pursue effective treatment through the NHS, but I still encounter bewilderment, confusion and a lack of understanding of the issues amongst GPs. Reluctant to challenge the TSH infallibility and to recognize signs and symptoms, GPs prefer to attribute them to other problems, involving many patients being tested for a myriad of medical issues, (*with huge cost implications for the NHS*). They also rely on numbers being 'anywhere in the reference range as 'normal', together with the perceived supremacy of T4 when there are other treatments shown to work which are backed by the science.

I have numerous symptoms which have all been investigated separately over the last years and earlier. Never recognized as thyroid related, these separate investigations have been expensive for the NHS, and frustrating for me. My symptoms have been disregarded when no obvious cause could be found

I feel very let down that GPs often do not recognize a problem exists when the all important blood test result is returned as 'normal' - it is an unfair and one-dimensional approach.

Dr Skinner has equipped himself with information and skill that covers the wider picture and he works with signs and symptoms. The medical literature supports his work and I firmly believe that GPs should be required to learn from Dr Skinner and to equip themselves with the current information about the greater thyroid system, to read the many medical and endocrinological articles

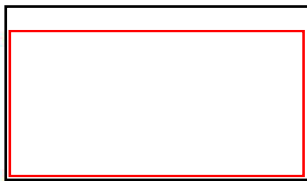
which support Dr Skinner`s methods , with Type 2 hypothyroidism, particularly resistance to T4 at the cellular level.

There are about 250,000 people out there awaiting a proper diagnosis, denied by the current system. This is the *real* medical negligence , Dr Skinner is trying to stem that and help his patients.

I would strongly suggest that you find in favour of Dr Skinner.

.

Yours faithfully



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:31
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: case number ES/C1-462487326.

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2012 15:00
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: case number ES/C1-462487326.

Dr Gordon R B Skinner

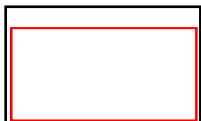
I write in support of Dr Skinner who, for us thyroid patients, has god-like status.

He saved the lives of me and my two daughters. Where could we have gone, if not for him. There is absolutely nowhere, and I have searched believe me.

We now have knowledge to manage ourselves but to know he is there is reassurance we need to keep.

There is no one with his depth of knowledge and broad understanding of endocrinology.

Please do not allow him to be battered into submission - there are not any clones.



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:34
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Gordon Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From:
Sent: 11 May 2012 21:13
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr Gordon Skinner

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!

He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors.

We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

Respectfully

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:35
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr. Gordon Skinner 24th May is ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 May 2012 19:53
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr. Gordon Skinner 24th May is ES/C1-462487326

Dear E. Summerfield,

I am astounded that it is yet again necessary for me to write to you in support of Dr. Skinner. In all my previous letters I have explained exactly why I am supporting this wonderful doctor, but this time as well as supporting him, I am writing to complain. To complain that it is yet again necessary for me to do so. What games are the GMC playing at here? One minute he is exonerated the next he has to face the IOP again. This is either harassment, vindictiveness, an outright campaign to destroy this man, or all three. It is beyond belief. I do hope my taxes are not going towards this ridiculous affair.

Is it not about time this harassment ceased once and for all. Wouldn't harassment like this from any other organisation be seen as a criminal activity.

I mentioned in my previous letters what a good caring doctor Dr. Skinner is, which he has constantly been proving. Not many doctors would be prepared to go through all this for the sake of his patients. Most would see their patients remain very ill rather than jeopardise their livelihood. This very case proves that.

Is it not time you considered the patients. This good doctor is giving people back their quality of life and in many cases giving them back their very lives. Instead of bringing futile actions against Dr. Skinner these doctors should be begging him to teach them how to treat their patients correctly. It is them who are mistreating their patients and it is them who should be in front of GMC for so doing.

Whilst the NHS is trying to combat it's deficit by trying to save as much as it can, you seem to be wasting as much as you can. Disgraceful.

As I have said in my previous letters, shame on you as by even accepting this case yet again, you are also condoning mistreating patients.

yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:33
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr. GRB Skinner Interim Orders Panel for 24 - 05 - 2012 Case Number ES/C1-462487326.

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2012 20:30
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr. GRB Skinner Interim Orders Panel for 24 - 05 - 2012 Case Number ES/C1-462487326.

Dear Sir/Madam

Ref Case Number ES/C1-462487326.

I wish to support Dr Skinner who is due to attend an IOP on the 24th May 2012.

He has helped many thousands of patients who have struggled with hypothyroidism. My wife was one such patient whose condition was ignored by NHS GP's and Endocrinologists, despite a previous history of autoimmune thyroid disorder, and it was Dr Skinner who was able to give her a life back.

He has never had a patient make a complaint against him and he has never harmed a patient. His goal is to alleviate patient symptoms and yet he seems to be hounded by a small group of other doctors who clearly are unaware of the vast body of evidence & research that clearly reinforce Dr. Skinner's methods.

Surely the GMC must be able to see by now, that he is the target of a modern day witch hunt & harassment campaign.

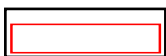
At his final FTP review on 17th November 2011, Dr. N Hester (Chairman) stated the panel felt confident that patient safety is not disregarded by Dr. Skinner, and that Dr Skinner had

demonstrated both his insight and awareness. He also said the panel was impressed by Dr Skinner's evident immersion in his speciality.

When will the GMC, take a stand against this flagrantly continuous and irresponsible hounding of a doctor by persons, hell bent on causing Dr. Skinner trouble, presumably in the hope that he gives up his beliefs on the treatment of thyroid disorders?

I ask that my views are made clear to the IOP and that this email becomes part of the record of Case Number ES/C1-462487326.

Yours sincerely

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

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:35
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: To the IOP Panel Dr Skinner Case number ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 May 2012 13:57
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: To the IOP Panel Dr Skinner Case number ES/C1-462487326

I am writing regarding the case of Dr Skinner and the hearing on 24th May. When considering this case, I request that you take the following information into consideration.

I am a carer for my sister who has Hashimoto's Thyroid disease and also a suffer myself. My sister is a patient of Dr Skinner's and I accompanied her to a consultation in [REDACTED] with this most skilful and compassionate expert. At all times during the consultation he was most professional and at great pains to encourage collaboration and partnership working with my sister's GP. He explained that by working together, her GP could monitor the health and welfare of my sister with regular test and correct prescribing all the while being supported by him. His very comprehensive examination and follow on letter to the GP advised that my sister is severely hypothyroid and he itemised the clinical signs and interpretation of blood test results is absolute confirmation of that. He also said my sisters GP could consult with him at any time and they could work together on a protocol for getting my sister well again.

Her GP refused to even discuss the suggested protocol and wouldn't even read the letter stating she knows what she is doing and doesn't need assistance. Well I can assure you she needs more than assistance, she should be appearing before the GMC and not Dr Skinner. [REDACTED]

The point I am trying to make is I just cannot understand how the GMC can repeatedly hound Dr Skinner and yet GPs treatment such as those described are allowed to put their patients lives at risk, go unchallenged.

I believe and would recommend the GMC should take a different course of action to address the abysmal treatment of thyroid conditions so many people have to suffer at the hands of the NHS instead of wasting time hounding one of the rare people that do know how to make people well again:

1. Clear Dr Skinner of any charges
2. Work with him in an official capacity to change the way thyroid conditions are treated in this country
3. Use his expertise to train new student doctors and improve on the totally inadequate training they currently receive
4. Use his expertise to educate, through professional development programmes for practicing GPs and so called endocrinologists.
5. Revise the standard protocols and reference ranges of thyroid function tests

This is just a list for starters - but even small but significant changes would mean patients would not have to resort to going outside their local care and pay for treatment that should be standard and freely available in their home practice. Another very important point is that there are some good medical people still affiliated with the NHS who would be prepared to treat their patients properly for these conditions but are prevented from doing so for fear of getting the same treatment as Dr Skinner at the hands of the GMC.

I believe these arrogant and self opinionated GPs feel threatened by people like Dr Skinner because it exposes them for what they are and reveals the danger many of them are putting their patients in.

PLEASE will you stop doing this and do something constructive instead to help the many thousands of patients and their families who desperately need the kind of help and care that Dr Skinner provides.

Thank you.

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 11:33
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Gordon Skinner - ES/C1-462487326.

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2012 20:13
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr Gordon Skinner - ES/C1-462487326.

Dear Mrs Summerfield

Some [REDACTED] years ago my daughter talked to her friend about how ill I was and told her my symptoms. She was told that for [REDACTED] years I had been attending my GP's surgery and was told there was nothing wrong with me, but physically I was getting worse and worse. This friend had similar symptoms to myself and suggested to my daughter that I contact Dr Gordon Skinner.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] My quality of life was zero.

I am [REDACTED] and at that time was living in [REDACTED]. I attended Dr Skinner's [REDACTED] surgery. Dr Skinner actually carried out a physical examination and made a diagnosis on his physical examination and my symptoms. This is something doctors had been well versed in some years ago, but is something they no longer seem to do, they rely on blood tests etc, which can only be described as a system of "you get what you pay for", most GPs pay for a very narrow scientific analysis. I may not be describing this very well but I am sure you get my gist.

Today I am [REDACTED], I have a life, and I am a size [REDACTED], and I have gone back to work for a few months. I have had to work at getting my weight down and it has taken some years. but this could only have been accomplished because Dr Skinner got me well enough physically and mentally to do this.

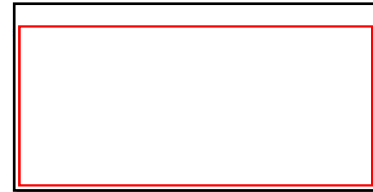
Whilst taking Thyroxine prescribed by Dr Skinner, I was bullied unmercifully for months by my GPs to "come off Thyroxine", so in tears I agreed to have my bloods taken. Taking the prescribed Thyroxine, the results came back as "normal". and then after a month of no Thyroxine and feeling very unwell, the results again were normal". The GPs admitted they had no choice but to continue giving me [REDACTED]mcg of Thyroxine, a doseage I have been taking ever since, which begs the questions what on earth is the use of the blood tests?

I do not think Dr Skinner is "God", I believe he is a good Doctor and a decent man who believes in trying to make his patient well. As a private doctor, specialising in problems associated with the Thyroid, he has the time to listen to his patient, which inevitably leads to a better diagnostic outcome, with the trade-off that his patient feels like a human being, and not a number, therefore, the terrible things like depression which accompanies hypothyroidism is given a boost, aiding the efficaceous effect of Thyroxine.

This life-long medical condition is not confined to a small number of "human beings" BUT clearly there is very little research or help forthcoming for any of us any time soon, and if we are honest there are so many of us, it could cost a lot of money. I am but a small number of the many many people who have been helped by Dr Skinner, fine, if not everyone has had the same experience, as I said "he is not God", but I bet there are a lot more like me who have been given enough quality of life to want to carry on, and it has been no thanks to the NHS or GPs, and unfortunately it is a situation that will continue for a very long time, which begs the question WHY?

Common sense sometimes should prevail.

Regards



14th May, 2012.

c/o Mrs. Elisa Summerfield
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

Dr. Gordon R. B. Skinner
IOP 24th May, 2012

Case No: ES/C1-462487326

Testimonial

Dear Mrs. Summerfield/IOP Panel,

In the eyes of the GMC, why is it such a crime for Dr. Skinner to make his patients well?

There are two parts to this testimonial, the first asking if the complaints are vexatious as they are from doctors and not the patients, the patients are happy with their treatment, the second from my point of view as a patient and mother of 2 patients who have found Dr. Skinner's treatment of our family, exemplary.

I have written to the GMC on many occasions now and I wish to re-iterate that I believe Dr. Gordon Skinner to be one of the most competent doctors I have ever consulted. Action taken by the GMC against doctor Skinner would certainly harm patients were he not be allowed to practise.

I also believe that what the GMC and members of the medical establishment are trying to do to him is a complete travesty of justice!

I cannot believe that I am again writing in support of Dr. Gordon Skinner, the compassionate, caring doctor who diagnosed and treated my two daughters around years ago. My elder daughter was just so, so ill, but GPs said it wasn't hypothyroidism; if it wasn't, then why did she fully recover with treatment from Dr. Skinner? My younger daughter had

too many symptoms to add here, but all symptoms of hypothyroidism. After treatment with thyroid hormone she fully recovered.

I had been failed by the medical profession for decades, all because of my blood test results, but I was finally diagnosed by a private GP in who couldn't believe that other doctors had failed to diagnose hypothyroidism and consequently left me to become very ill. After she referred me to Dr. Skinner.

I have heard of double jeopardy, but I'm not sure if there is a name for the GMC's hounding of Dr. Skinner. Dr. Skinner is being tried, tried again and again and again for the same points. (see below, Page 2, last paragraph).

I am not convinced this would even pass the steps of a Crown Court. How many Panels does the GMC have to employ to find a doctor guilty. *This has to be harassment of the worst kind.*

In the transcript of the IOP hearing on 22nd February, 2012, Page 1, 3rd paragraph, it states, "The Panel has heard that the GMC has received five letters from medical professionals expressing their concerns about Dr. Skinner's prescribing practices. It has been provided with details of those concerns. In essence, despite each of the five patients being within the normal range (1) of thyroid function tests, Dr. Skinner has gone on to prescribe Thyroxine at high levels. (2)

Second page, 2nd Paragraph. "You submitted that none of the complaints received identify any harm having come to the patients in question and that one patient had expressed her clear disapproval for the course adopted by her general practitioner in making a referral as she was entirely satisfied with the care provided by Dr. Skinner. Dr. Shilvock's patient had left his practice following his suggestion that he or she discontinue the treatment instituted by Dr. Skinner. **You have today presented an e-mail from the patient who was the subject matter of the first of the five complaints, expressing her unequivocal support of Dr. Skinner. You submitted that such support was consistent with the large volume of patient testimonials which the GMC has received throughout the course of Dr. Skinner's Fitness to Practise Proceedings.**

Page 2, Last paragraph, "**You submitted on Dr. Skinner's behalf that each of the complaints that this IOP has received do not raise any new issues.**"

Page 3, 2nd Paragraph, "You submitted that proportionality should be taken into account and that **there is clear evidence that any order of conditions or suspension would directly affect patient care and have an adverse impact on the many patients who are under Dr. Skinner's care.**"

Page 3, 4th Paragraph, "**However, on the basis that there has been no demonstrable harm to any of the five patients and on the basis of the FTP determination, the Panel is not satisfied that Dr. Skinner may pose a real risk to patients and there it is not necessary for the protection of the public, in the public interest or in Dr. Skinner's own interests to make an order in accordance with Section 41A of the Medical Act 1983, as amended.**"

(1)

"The Panel could not be satisfied, on the basis of all the evidence presented, that a therapeutic trial of thyroxine therapy was inappropriate for a patient with clinical features of hypothyroidism and with thyroid function tests with the reference range."
(General Medical Council: 5th September, 2007. (p.3)

*'Routine thyroid function testing has been available for more than thirty years. **Therefore, it may seem surprising that the quality of evidence to support the recommendations in these guidelines is generally poor.** The main reason for this finding is that the early studies that were used to assess the value, validity and effectiveness of thyroid function tests in a variety of clinical situations were performed before the requirements for evidence based medicine were adopted. There is a real need to conduct new studies that conform to the rules of evidence based medicine in order to provide answers to some common but contentious issues in the use of thyroid function testing.'*

UK Guidelines for the Use of Thyroid Function Tests (July, 2006)
The Association of Clinical Biochemistry, The British Thyroid Association and The British Thyroid Foundation.

Researchers are aware of the possibility of patients being biochemically thyrotoxic with no signs and symptoms of clinical toxicity. A study by Harris, Oretti and others, including John Lazarus FRCP. In a trial to prevent postnatal depression the researchers stated, "In the active group there was a marked increase in the incidence of biochemical hyperthyroidism, but this was not accompanied by any clinical symptomatology."

Harris B, Oretti R, Lazarus J, Parkes A, John R, Richards C, Newcombe R, Hall R. Randomised trial of Thyroxine to Prevent Postnatal Depression in Thyroid-antibody-positive Women. Br J Psychiatry (2002)180:327-330

Patients are individuals and may need varying levels of TSH, FT4 and FT3.

'Are Biochemical tests of Thyroid Function of any value in Monitoring Patients Receiving Thyroxine Replacement?'

The authors suggest that the ranges for patients receiving thyroxine should be as follows:-

FT4 12-36

TSH <0.1 – 13.7

FT3 3.0 – 8.6

*"Concentrations of TT3, FT3 and TSH are also incapable of satisfactorily indicating over-replacement. **The tests perform equally badly in detecting under-replacement.***

A question that remains to be answered convincingly is whether it is clinically necessary to measure thyroid hormone concentrations in patients receiving thyroxine replacement" They go on to say that until 1973 the usual dose of thyroxine was 200-400mcg per day. "We are not aware of any study that has shown that this reduction in the standard dose has had any clinically beneficial effects."

British Medical Journal Volume 293 27th September 1986.

W. D. Fraser, E.M. Biggart, D St J. O'Reilly, H.W. Gray, J.H. McKillop, J. A. Thomson.

"Until valid evidence shows that such a policy is detrimental we will continue to treat patients holistically rather than insist on adherence to biochemical definition of adequacy of thyroxine replacement.

BMJ 2003;326:1087 (17 May, doi:10.1136/bmj.326.7398.1087

Letter

*Thyroid Function tests and Hypothyroidism.*A.D. Toft, consultant physician

(2) Patients given large doses when they were euthyroid and no harm came to them. See below.

[Neuropsychopharmacology](#). 1998 Jun;18(6):444-55.

Treatment of refractory depression with high-dose thyroxine.

[Bauer M](#), [Hellweg R](#), [Gräf KJ](#), [Baumgartner A](#).

Source

Department of Psychiatry, Klinikum Benjamin Franklin, Free University of Berlin, Germany.

Abstract

In an open clinical trial we investigated whether addition of supraphysiological doses of thyroxine (T4) to conventional antidepressant drugs has an antidepressant effect in therapy-resistant depressed patients. Seventeen severely ill, therapy-resistant, euthyroid patients with major depression (12 bipolar, five unipolar) were studied. The patients had been depressed for a mean of 11.5 +/- 13.8 months, despite treatment with antidepressants and, in most cases, augmentation with lithium, carbamazepine, and neuroleptics. Thyroxine was added to their antidepressant medication, and the doses were increased to a mean of 482 +/- 72 micrograms/day. The patients' scores on the Hamilton rating Scale for Depression (HRSD) declined from 26.6 +/- 4.7 prior to the addition of T4 to 11.6 +/- 6.8 at the end of week 8. Eight patients fulfilled the criteria for full remission (a 50% reduction in HRSD score and a final score of < or = 9) within 8 weeks and two others fully remitted within 12 weeks. Seven patients did not remit. The 10 remitted patients were maintained on high-dose T4 and followed up for a mean of 27.2 +/- 22.0 months. Seven of these 10 remitted patients had an excellent outcome, two had milder and shorter episodes during T4 augmentation treatment, and one failed to profit from T4 treatment during the follow-up period. Side effects were surprisingly mild, and no complications were observed at all. In conclusion, augmentation of conventional antidepressants with high-dose T4 proved to have excellent antidepressant effects in approximately 50% of severely therapy-resistant depressed patients.

PMID:9571653[PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Part Two.

Vexatious Complaints.

.

Surely the text below must be raising alarm bells at the GMC. Complaints one after the other regarding Dr. Skinner's treatment of patients; NOT from the patients who have written testimonials by the thousands, but by doctors.

You will find quotes from the determination of 22nd February, 2012 and the original hearing of 2007. One in particular I have quoted below. D/19/3.F-H.

"The Panel has taken full account of the mitigation submitted on your behalf. It has read the numerous testimonials submitted by both patients and colleagues and has noted the testimony of the 17 patients who have given evidence on your behalf, and that of Dr Ahmad, who assists you with the administration at the Louise Lorne Clinic. It is clear that you are a caring and compassionate doctor whose overwhelming concern is the care and well being of your patients, many of whom have pleaded that you should be allowed to continue to practise. The Panel has taken account of the fact that the majority of the written testimonials, and all of the oral evidence, were given in full knowledge of the facts found proved against you, and of the Panel's findings of impairment. A large body of evidence has been submitted throughout this case demonstrating that many patients have benefited from the medication which you have prescribed."

Shouldn't the GMC be asking why these doctors are trying to discredit a first class doctor?

Firstly, the 28/29th July aborted hearing. Aborted because of bias by the expert witness.

GMC Fitness to Practise Panel (Misconduct/Performance)
28th/29th July, 2011
Transcript (Thyroid Patient Advocacy Website)

Professor P. Bouloux was to provide an expert witness report on the documentation provided over the time of Dr. Skinner's 'conditions'.

Professor Bouloux commented to a patient that, words to the effect of, "We have him". This from a Witness Statement by the patient.

Mr. Haycroft, (Counsel for Dr. Skinner). D21 E-G.

"He has a mutual patient who comes to him and complains that another doctor has been making comments about him personally. Then, of course, he phones him, it is clear from the letter of 24 June. The patient makes that revelation to him about a week, I am instructed, later. Dr Skinner phoned Professor Bouloux, complaining on a professional to professional basis, to say that he did not think it was appropriate. He hears nothing from him and, therefore, about a week later writes this letter, so it all happens within June. He writes a letter on 24 June saying, "As I have not received an

apology from you, I have taken --- advice”, and then Professor Bouloux writes the letter back on 27 June. There is enough information there to show that he has not acted in an appropriate way, if I can put it neutrally, for an independent expert. Then that is followed up with us providing to the GMC a witness statement from the patient, which you can see the summary of it in the letter from those instructing me on 18 July, to the effect that, according to the patient, Professor Bouloux said words to the effect, “We have him”, which if correct, and of course I am conscious of the fact it is no part of your function to make a finding of that, and Professor Bouloux is not here to answer for it --- “

Determination, Day 2/1 G

The Panel has also noted a letter from Dr Skinner to Professor Bouloux, dated 24 June 2011. In that letter, Dr Skinner requested an explanation of an allegation that he, Professor Bouloux, had commented to one of their mutual patients that “he (Dr Skinner) had been struck off the medical register” and that “he (Dr Skinner) has been giving us the run around for years but we’ve got him at last”. The Panel has further noted Professor Bouloux’s written response, dated 27 June 2011, to Dr Skinner’s request for an explanation.

With the above in mind, one has to wonder if the complaints, (from doctors not the patients) have been orchestrated.

Please note the GMCs own guidelines on vexatious complaints. See Below

http://www.gmc-uk.org/Vexatious_Complaints_Guidance.pdf_28487270.pdf

Introduction, 4.

“Exceptionally, however, a complaint is part of a campaign and/or vendetta (formal or informal), against a particular doctor or body or on a specific issue, and has the primary purpose and/or effect of disturbing, disrupting and/or pressurising. Such complaints misuse the GMC’s fitness to practise procedures and are vexatious. The Court of Appeal expressed concern about the phenomenon in the recent case of Meadow v General Medical Council [2007] QB 462. The Court’s remarks dealt with doctors acting as expert witnesses but are applicable more generally. Sir Anthony Clarke MR explained his view [66] that:

it should be possible to devise a scheme which reduces to an absolute minimum the risk of expert witnesses being vexed by unmeritorious complaints to regulatory bodies like the GMC.”

While, similarly, Thorpe LJ commented [246] that:

“[protection from] unfounded or malicious complaints [was] urgent business”.

Otherwise manifestly unreasonable. 11.

If a complainant has made numerous unsustainable complaints against a doctor or group of doctors, a further complaint may be vexatious: especially if dealing with the same doctor/group and/or the same subject matter. A complainant who without reasonable justification brings broadly repetitive allegations is more likely to bring vexatious complaints than a persistent complainant who raises multiple allegations about different issues. Examples include:

- A complainant lodges a very high number of complaints within a relatively short period of time.
- A complaint is pressed after the GMC's procedures have been properly implemented and exhausted.
- A complaint is pursued despite the allegation(s) having already been decided conclusively against the complainant in other proceedings (in a disciplinary or other forum).
- A complainant makes a series of further associated allegations or repeatedly provides further information amounting to minor or immaterial variations of an earl

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 12:39
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 12:33
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!

He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job!

From

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 12:51
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

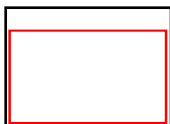
Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 12:45
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336); [REDACTED]
Subject: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!

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Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 14 May 2012 13:35
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 13:23
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: ES/C1-462487326

Dear Sirs

I write in support of Dr Gordon Skinner whom the panel have summoned yet again on 24th May 2012.

I am a patient of Dr Skinner since [REDACTED] of this year and, under his expert care, have regained my good health after [REDACTED] years of being very ill with hypothyroidism [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. For years I have been told that my many and varied symptoms were nothing to do with my hypothyroidism and instead prescribed a variety of drugs to 'treat' the individual ailments, including [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] My quality of life was dreadful and my marriage was under severe strain. I worried for my little boy that he would be affected by [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. In short, I felt there was little point in going on when all I could see ahead was further decline and no hope of regaining some semblance of health.

Seeing Dr Skinner has saved my life and that is not too strong a statement to make. I was very seriously at the point of suicide. I have had no mental illness in my [REDACTED] years, despite a desire by several GPs to attribute my symptoms to this. Dr Skinner examined me, not simply the blood results. It was clear to him that these symptoms were indeed of being hypothyroid and undermedicated. I was convinced, not unreasonably, that the levothyroxine was no longer agreeing with me. The listed side effects do include [REDACTED] when telling my endocrinologist I had these, i was

informed these were nothing to do with the thyroxine! I fail to see why these warnings are included if they are ultimately being ignored.

I have been taking Natural Dessicated Thyroid since [redacted] and the improvement in my health has been astonishing. My symptoms are all gone, entirely. I saw my GP for review [redacted] and she was delighted to remove the many repeated medications from my script list. [redacted]

[redacted] Of course I don't believe that was ever a correct diagnosis, along with the other errors in my treatment. It was clearly a catch all diagnosis for the symptoms my endocrinologist, Dr [redacted] of [redacted], refused to consider relevant to hypothyroid.

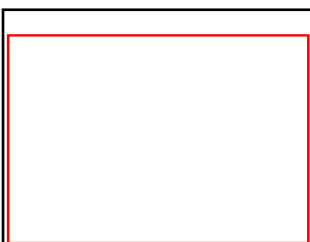
I realise how fortunate I have been to finally find Dr Skinner and how unfair and tragic it is for the many ill people who cannot see him. The current treatment protocols for hypothyroidism are wrong in my opinion, particularly the over reliance on TSH and blood tests. Doctors like Dr Skinner are forward thinking and get results. I note the recent report by Sir John Oldham calling for a new approach to include patients self care, where he states it's "not just a nice thing to do, it leads directly to improved clinical outcomes." <http://pulsetoday.co.uk/main-content/-/article>

[three reasons to promote self care](#)

If more doctors were like Dr Skinner and allowed patients to be involved in their health care, the costs and outcomes would surely improve for all involved?

What I am certain of is I have suffered needlessly for seven years thanks to outdated and ineffectual treatment. Perhaps I also should be taking steps to ensure the GMC protect patients from harm by these same doctors.

Yours faithfully





14/05/2012

IOP Panel
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

Dear Madam

IOP Hearing 24/05/2012
Dr GRB Skinner
ES/C1-462487326

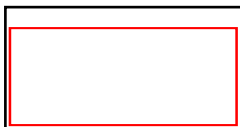
Both my husband and I have written independently in support of Dr Skinner on previous occasions.

I now understand that he is to face yet another GMC hearing.

I therefore feel moved to once again write in support of this excellent and caring doctor. I was returned to full health because of Dr Skinner's extensive knowledge and experience.

Both my husband and I give Dr Skinner our wholehearted support.

Yours faithfully



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:34
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 14:27
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: ES/C1-462487326

IOP Case Reference: ES/C1-462487326 (Dr Skinner)

Dear Mrs Elisa Summerfield,

I am writing to give my support for Dr Gordon Skinner, regarding the upcoming IOP hearing on the 24th May 2012.

Although I have not been personally treated by Dr Skinner, I am fully aware of many people whose lives he has helped improve. I know this from the many comments and emails from people on several Thyroid Forums, Thyroid Groups, and thyroid related websites I have read. Many patients have been unable to receive the care and treatment that they deserve from NHS medical staff they have previously or are currently seeing. This is due to medical staff relying too heavily on flawed blood tests, namely passing the TSH test off as a thyroid test when it only checks the function of the pituitary gland; not comprehending the meaning of statistical results- a result lying in a given confidence range does not mean the result is 'normal' for the individual, yet many lab results or GPs label results as normal; and many GPs and Endocrinologists do not pay proper attention to patients' signs and symptoms that their patients tell them about during consultations, which should result in a proper diagnosis being made. With the reliance of flawed medical tests, namely the TSH blood test for diagnosing thyroid conditions, patients are being refused treatment of thyroid hormones. The medical establishment generally refuses the use of the T3 hormone, the actual active thyroid hormone. I think this is down to the fact that by using tests which do not properly monitor how thyroid hormones function within the body, but instead rely on a pituitary gland test, the TSH test, medical staff will get bizarre results from someone taking T3. Even results from patients taking T4 or combination of T4 and T3 have led to the reduction of treatment, which in many cases resulted in the patient getting worse, not better. These blood test results do not show the true picture and therefore do not get the patient better from their GP/Endocrinologist's treatment programme. A usable test is not currently available for assessing the use and levels of thyroid hormones within cells and so therefore greater attention and reliance should be paid to signs and symptoms such as resting body temperature, heart rate, cholesterol level, cold hands and feet, tiredness etc. Please refer to <http://www.thyroid->

info.com/articles/david-derry.htm, about Dr Derry finding that patients were being missed when the TSH test was introduced and he returned to diagnosing patients in the way he was taught at medical school. It is far too easy for doctors to write off patients as having depression or a psychosomatic illness. Patients are not tested for the need of depression medications, dose increases or changes in treatment type via a blood test, yet doctors are happy to prescribe them. Likewise doctors are happy to give threats about placing a patient on statins or even being very willing to place a patient on statins. Luckily there are some great specialists around, aware of the flaws of the current thyroid tests and treatment guidelines. These specialist, including Dr Skinner are turning the lives of patients around, allowing them to function once again as human beings and being able to be part of society once again.

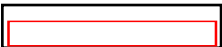
It appears to be the case that certain GPs are raising complaints about the approach Dr Skinner is taking with their patients and his treatment recommendations. Yet, these medical professionals have been unable to satisfactory help their patients, as otherwise they would be well and would not be seeking alternative help. Is not a case that flaws are currently present in the education and training of medical staff and the testing, diagnosis and treatment guidelines that qualified medical professionals so heavily rely on? Doctors are not following guidelines as they are solely relying on blood test results and completely ignore symptoms and signs. Dr Skinner has helped many patients to recover their health. It is about time the guidelines, diagnosis and training protocols are overhauled as they are outdated, flawed and not working for a large number of patients.

The rest of the British medical establishment should study and learn from Dr Skinner's methods of treatment, which seems to be very successful. Dr Skinner is a very caring, professional doctor, who listens to his patients and is very successful in improving the lives of his patients.

Dr Skinner should be allowed to continue to help improve his current and future patient's lives.

I also think Dr Skinner should be awarded for his contribution to medicine in this country.

Best regards,



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:35
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Case Number ES/C1-462487326 Dr Gordon Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 15:48
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Case Number ES/C1-462487326 Dr Gordon Skinner

Dear Mrs Elisa Summerfield

Case Number ES/C1-462487326 - Dr Gordon Skinner.

I am writing in support of Dr Gordon Skinner, to whom I was referred in [REDACTED] when I was very ill with symptoms of hypothyroidism.

I was facing a long wait to see an NHS endocrinologist and my GP couldn't offer treatment as my TSH was only [REDACTED]

Dr Skinner took a very thorough history and examined me with exceptional care for signs of hypothyroidism. He also requested additional blood tests and wrote very helpfully to my GP.

I was extremely happy with Dr Skinner's professionalism.

His diagnosis and advice meant that I began to regain my health which up till then had been steadily deteriorating.

More recently, [REDACTED], a GP at the practice I attend referred me to the local endocrinology department, having concerns that my TSH was suppressed.

My Free T4 and Free T3 were well within the reference range.

I followed the medical advice of the endocrinologists to reduce my thyroid medication. My Free T4 subsequently was going off the bottom of the reference range and I was feeling ill again.

I also tried to follow their advice to introduce thyroxine, in place of the Natural Desiccated Thyroid which I had been taking since [REDACTED]. I became increasingly symptomatic [REDACTED] I was then discharged and told that my GP should monitor me. I was also told that I was over-replaced on the basis of my low TSH.

It was at this point that I booked a follow up appointment with Dr Skinner in [REDACTED]. I am once again in his

excellent care and I am beginning to feel better again rather than increasingly worse.

It is lamentable that such an excellent doctor should have his fitness to practice put into question. It is also especially perplexing when - from my point of view as a patient with hypothyroidism - an NHS endocrinology department is permitted to discharge me with impunity - my symptoms having got worse when following their medical protocol.

Yours sincerely

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:36
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: ES/C1-462487326 - Dr Gordon Skinner.

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 21:30
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: ES/C1-462487326 - Dr Gordon Skinner.

Dear Sir,

It is with great disdain that once again i find that Dr Gordon Skinner is being hauled before the GMC on the same old trumped up charges. Surely by now your council recognises that far from harming patients, Dr Skinner is providing a much needed understanding of Thyroid conditions where most Endocrinologists fail miserably. Time and again your committee cannot find any evidence that Dr Skinner is negligent in his practice for the simple reason - he isn't! How many more times is this witchhunt going to be allowed to continue?? Please put an end to this once and for all.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

14 May 2012

Investigation Officer,
Fitness to Practise Directorate,
General Medical Council,
3 Hardman Street,
Manchester,
M3 3AW

Dear Sir or Madam

Dr G Skinner

This letter is in support of Dr Gordon Skinner.

I became a patient of Dr Skinner [redacted] ago because of the problems in getting effective treatment for hypothyroidism through my NHS general practitioner.

It is vital to me that my illness is treated properly so that I can continue to pursue my career, earn a living, and look after my family properly, for which I need good health, energy and a clear mind. My general practitioner was unable to provide an effective treatment: he was prepared to leave me with palpitations and paraesthesia, as he believed my hypothyroidism resolved despite evidence to the contrary. Therefore, I researched doctors with specialist knowledge of hypothyroidism and asked to be referred to Dr Skinner, although I did not know him, or of him, beforehand.

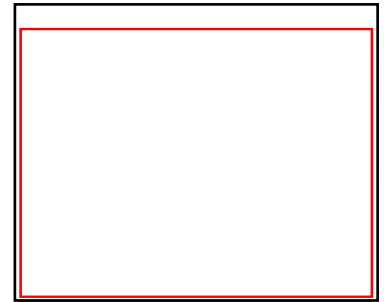
I have found that Dr Skinner is an intelligent, professional, caring doctor who has an excellent understanding of thyroid problems and the experience to provide suitable treatment. Dr Skinner's analytical approach, and thorough consideration of all the evidence available, meant that he was able to provide a much more effective treatment. He went into much more detail, asked for far more information, and spent longer considering the best solution before coming to a recommendation. After only a couple of months, I feel much better than I had

[redacted]
after [redacted] of treatment with my GP: [redacted]
[redacted]

I feel that Dr Skinner should be employed as an example of good practice. He should be invited to teach the new generation of doctors how to properly evaluate all the information available and tailor their treatment to each individual, rather than jump to the standard treatment and hold to that whether it works or not.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
[redacted]



Interim Orders Panel
General Medical Council,
St James Building
79 Oxford Street,
Manchester,
M1 6FQ .

11th May 2012

Dear GMC

Re: Interim Orders Panel Hearing, Dr Skinner, May 2012

Case Number: ES/C1-462487326

I am writing to you as an existing patient for a number of years of Dr Skinner.

Dr Skinner brought me back from very poor health after being diagnosed with [redacted] and more latterly hypothyroidism by doctors in the NHS. I have absolutely no doubt that without Dr Skinners skilled, careful doctoring I would have continued to be very poorly and unable to work. I continue to feel completely appalled by the way that Dr Skinner had been treated by the medical profession and do not understand why the GMC continue to feel the need to question Dr Skinner.

More recently without Dr Skinner's medical skills I would have wrongly been placed on

[redacted]

[redacted] However it was thanks to Dr Skinner's medical expertise that he established that the problem was not in fact a condition that would merit the need for [redacted]. The remedy was to reduce the desiccated thyroid I was taking due to over self prescribing. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

This experienced NHS Consultant felt that he had learnt something from Dr Skinner & discharged me from his clinic, telling me he would write to Dr Skinner to thank him. Frankly this wonderful piece of doctoring by Dr Skinner saved me from taking a very potent drug unnecessarily. Many doctors look at hypothyroidism through the eyes of the blood test – with blood test results being a key part of diagnosis/management for the ‘gold standard’ of hypothyroidism. How therefore do you explain what happened to me whilst my blood levels were being monitored on desiccated thyroid but the blood tests failed to show any toxicity? With due respect there is something fundamentally wrong with the approach that blood tests will tell all in the management and diagnosis of hypothyroidism. Dr Skinner’s wonderful management of my case has proven this.

It is because Dr Skinner looked beyond the blood test that he has managed to dramatically improve my health. His open mind and ability to see the wider picture, yet knowledge over hypothyroidism has saved me from a life without quality – a world of immense disability – a likelihood of a shortened life. In the long term I believe Dr Skinner has saved my life –twice

I would also like to mention that in the last year I have moved across to Erfa, a brand of desiccated thyroid on which I have much more energy and no hypothyroid symptoms even though I take less. This is because I believe I can absorb this particular medication as it does not contain the fillers used in Levothyroxine & several brands of desiccated thyroid. Therefore I don’t actually believe the treatment of hypothyroidism is as straight forward as I have been told over the years from my GPs. There is a careful balance and there is no doubt that the right combination of thyroid hormones needs to be sought for the individual which requires a far more comprehensive examination of the total picture of the patient. It is far more complex than a simple TSH blood test that our NHS seems to so misguidedly reliant on & has been my historic treatment on the NHS which FAILED to get me well. Dr Skinner takes time to look at his patients, their history their presenting symptoms and signs; taking note of his patient’s temperature, pulse and conducting a careful physical examination. This is something that absolutely no one in the NHS has EVER done when looking at my medical needs, even though it is highly recommended that such doctors take into account my physical presentation, alongside my symptoms as well as blood results.

Before I went onto desiccated thyroid I was on Levothyroxine. Then later combined with tertroxin T3 –although my blood tests showed good levels of thyroid hormones I remained unwell, had ongoing symptoms, low energy and struggled to work. Please explain why this

would be? Surely it means that a wider view of practise such as Dr Skinners needs to be implemented across the country not the other way round!

Thanks to Dr Skinner's highly skilled medical practice I am able to fully contribute towards society - [redacted]

[redacted] I have two grown up sons who have had a mother fully present in their lives. I could not possibly have achieved this level of well being without Dr Skinners skilled, sensitive medical intervention. I actually feel that the medical profession could learn from Dr Skinners approach. I believe Dr Skinners medical practise should be highly praised not criticised. What should be happening is a review of medical practise in the NHS of doctors treating patients with hypothyroidism. This is evident by the fact that ongoing complaints come from doctors not the patients treated by Dr Skinner, as it is the doctors who are failing to comprehend that they need to change their practise and understanding of this condition.

I feel very well on my treatment. I have absolutely no doubt that without Dr Skinner input I would have continued to be left on the discarded pile [redacted] with gradually declining health [redacted] unable to contribute to my family or to society, denied of the opportunity to live my life to its full potential. All this for a woman who had no history of illness until hypothyroidism developed. Ill health, which would be completely unnecessary & that is truly outrageous and the true crime. How come it is a doctor who has helped me to regain FULL health who is being questioned REPEATEDLY by the GMC but the doctors who left me with unnecessary gradual declining health are not? Surely it is the doctors who left me to decline who are at fault and the medical practise that they employ that is so erroneously heartedly upheld by our medical standards boards. It is time to change –the 'Gold Standards' approach they use does NOT work and has done me a great disservice. That is the practise that is negligent NOT Dr Skinner.

I would be more than happy to provide any further information or appear at the hearing if you wish to ask any further questions of me.

Your Sincerely,

[redacted]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:37
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: "IOP Panel and hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326 ,Dr Skinner"

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2012 07:31
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: "IOP Panel and hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326 ,Dr Skinner"

The work dr Skinner is doing for his patients must go on !

He is helping thousands of patients who do not get help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help , and without the right medication ,so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work .

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:36
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"

Importance: High

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 22:06
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"
Importance: High

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!
He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.
You must let him continue to do his job.

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:36
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

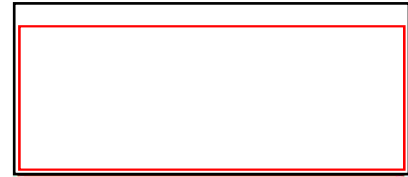
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 20:15
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!

He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

[REDACTED]



14th May, 2012

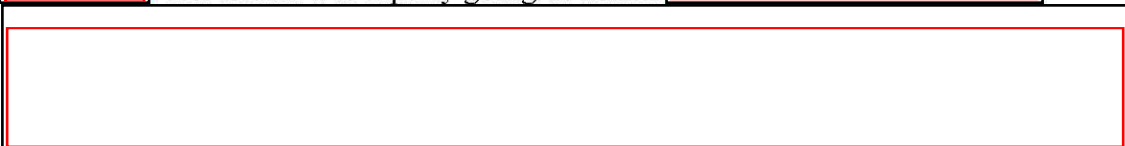
IOP
c/o Mrs. Elisa Summerfield
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

Dear Ms. Cook,

Testimonial for Dr. Gordon R.B. Skinner
Case No. ES/C1-462487326
24th May, 2012.

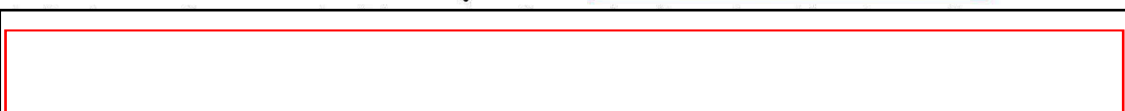
Dr. Skinner has for many years helped my family where other doctors have failed.

1) Firstly, he saw my daughter [redacted]
[redacted] Her health was rapidly going downhill [redacted]



Dr. Skinner prescribed thyroid medication for her and the improvement in her health was dramatic. She has never looked back since.

2) Secondly, my wife was so ill for so many years and I went with her to GP appointments where they actually said it appeared like hypothyroidism, but the blood tests said otherwise. I was seriously worried [redacted]



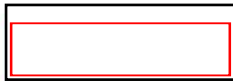
After finally seeing another doctor, the GP said my wife looked so classically hypothyroid, she couldn't understand why on earth no-one would give her a trial of thyroxine. Eventually, my wife saw Dr. Skinner and after some time he changed her medication to T3. It is no exaggeration to say that my wife could have ended up in a wheelchair without his help and thanks to him she resumed a normal life although not without some permanent problems as a result of various GP failures over the years.

3) My younger daughter also saw Dr. Skinner because she had symptoms of hypothyroidism, but also kidney problems. Apparently kidney problems are associated with hypothyroidism. She was treated with thyroxine and is now well and has carried a baby to full term.

My wife and two daughters have had excellent treatment from Dr. Skinner. He deserves to be allowed to give other patients the same care. In fact he should be applauded for the fantastic work he is doing. Those who are against the proper treatment of this terrible condition should be the ones whose performance is questioned.

Yours sincerely,

Signed



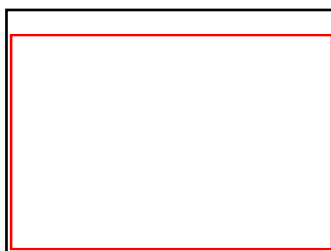
Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:37
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner - Case No ES/C1-462487326.

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2012 05:53
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr Skinner - Case No ES/C1-462487326.



14th May 2012

The General Medical Council
Manchester

By e-mail: esummerfield@gmc-uk.org
cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

Case number ES/C1-462487326. – Dr Gordon Skinner

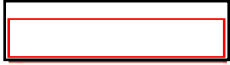
It is with deep regret that I find myself once again having to write to you to say how horrified I am that Dr Skinner has been called once again to have to defend himself.

Dr Skinner is dedicated doctor who for many years now has taken the time and with the benefit of this enormous experience to thoroughly diagnose and treat my thyroid condition. He is so careful and thorough every time I see him. His waiting room is always busy with patients who do nothing but sing his praises and all of us feel so very grateful to him for restoring how strength and equilibrium.

Each time Dr Skinner is called to these hearings many patients are denied access to his precious time. It is an exhausting and unnecessary process for him and is an incredible waste of resources on the part of the General Medical Council who I am sure are very busy and have limited resources which should be preserved and used for cases that really do need investigating.

I ask that you please clear Dr Skinners name for a final time and put an end to this.

Yours faithfully

A rectangular box with a red border, likely used to redact a signature or name.

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:34
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Case no. ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 14:56
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Case no. ES/C1-462487326

Dear Mrs Summerfield,

Case no. ES/C1-462487326

Dr Gordon Skinner [REDACTED]

My mother, [REDACTED] is one of Dr Skinner's patients. She will be writing separately to provide her perspective on Dr Skinner's treatment of her case.

I believe that my mother's case history is instructive as she was prescribed higher levels of Thyroxine than was indicated by her T4 test results, with the result that she was over-replaced according to the guidelines, not by Dr Skinner but by the NHS consultants that she saw in the [REDACTED]s.

These consultants referred to my mother's condition was referred to as a form of thyroxine resistance, or persistent hypothyroidism. Treating her with an "excess" of thyroid hormone in both T4 and T3 form was seen as both responsible and necessary for the treatment of her condition. Later thyroid function tests showed that her T4 levels had risen to the mid-thirties and her TSH was completely suppressed.

Dr Skinner's approach, then, was consistent with the approach of the NHS consultants my mother had seen in the [REDACTED]s. The difference lay in Dr Skinner's use of natural thyroid extract and in his attention to the detail of my mother's care. Through that attention, my mother's health and quality of life began to improve to the point where she is now active and able to walk several miles.

The improvement in my mother's health, which has been sustained over several years, cannot be underestimated in its impact of her quality of life. It is too easy to take for granted the ability to simply be able to leave the house and take a walk. Or, indeed, to simply feel well, without thought for what a chronic health condition is like for the sufferer, day-by-day.

Now, I understand that there are GPs who object to Dr Skinner's approach to the treatment of hypothyroidism. However, I do not see what they would substitute in its place beyond leaving patients like my mother return to the ill-health from which Dr Skinner has rescued them.

If the suggestion is that Dr Skinner's regime is non-standard then one has to question the wisdom of a standard approach which leaves hypothyroid patients feeling unwell.

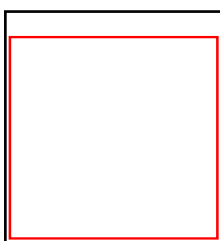
I am deeply concerned to learn that Dr Skinner is being criticised on the basis of his approach to treatment of hypothyroidism, an approach which has led to my mother's good health today. To think that a distant tribunal may reach a decision which casts my mother back into the poor health from which she has escaped is of great concern.

Frankly, I am worried as to what the hearing might mean for her as I doubt, in the event of a negative outcome for Dr Skinner, 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 and quality of life.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:34
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 14:37
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!

He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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Sent: 15 May 2012 09:34
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Subject: FW: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"

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Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 14:39
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"

To whom it may concern,
The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!
He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.
You must let him continue to do his job.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Take care, it's your only life

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:36
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 21:52
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!
He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.
You must let him continue to do his job.

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:34
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 14:50
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!
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Kind regards, [REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:34
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

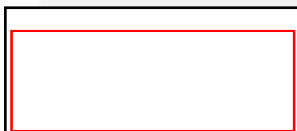
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 14:45
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

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He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

Kind regards,



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:35
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Testimonial in support of Dr. Skinner re Hearing on 24th May 2012

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 16:02
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Testimonial in support of Dr. Skinner re Hearing on 24th May 2012

I would like to say a few words about Dr. Skinner in comparison with the treatment I have and am currently receiving at [REDACTED] hospital following admission [REDACTED]

I was told following blood tests at [REDACTED] that I was thyrotoxic. My initial symptoms were [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Before being admitted to hospital [REDACTED] when I suddenly felt very ill, I was on armour thyroid plus T4 and up to that point feeling better in myself than I had ever felt on T4 only meds. I was ill [REDACTED] months ago [REDACTED] after seeing Dr Skinner who, had written to my GP to adjust my dosing to being down the ft3 element which was of concern to my GP. I chased the letter that was written by Dr Skinner, and still heard nothing from my GP. Then I [REDACTED] went back to my GP months later, it was only then I realised that the GP had received Dr Skinners letter, but had chosen not to follow his recommendations and not inform me that my dose needed changing. No wonder I felt ill as I had dropped the dose of Armour as agreed with Dr. Skinner which was supposed to be supplemented by T4 from my GP which he wrote to my doctor about as he promised but they did nothing. My FT4 was well out of the reference range months later. That was my GPs fault, NOT Dr. Skinner.

Why does it seem to be impossible for Dr. Skinner to work with our GP's.

Currently, I feel terrible as I am on a half? of the equivalent dose of thyroxine. [REDACTED]

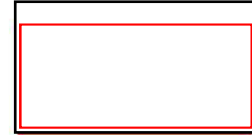
I simply cannot believe that there is yet another GMC hearing of a man who has significant experience in treating thyroid issues, who helped me significantly when I saw him and has helped hundreds of other patients. Why do you persist in hounding GP'S who are actually interested in hearing what symptoms people have and prescribing medication that suits the patient best rather than looking at the blood test results alone. They are a rare breed. Surely a well rounded examination including taking note of symptoms is essential to diagnosis??? After going back to NHS treatment, and I have felt forced to do it, it has put me back years, and after being on no meds at all for a week, and then back onto thyroxine on a probably a half of the dose my body actually needs,

As soon as I can find the money, I will be going back to meds with T3 in them under Dr. Skinner, having made sure my adrenals can take it.

There are precious few people in the NHS who actually know what they are doing as regards hypothyroidism. They are taking peoples lives away from them due to inadequate treatment of thyroid conditions because they look at blood tests only and their complete inability to consider that maybe synthetic meds are not suitable for everyone. Surely, if armour thyroid medication was the medication used in the UK many years ago, there cannot be anything wrong with it now. It also contains all the things your thyroid makes for itself. How on earth can a synthetic form that contains something that has to be converted by your body into something else, be better?What if your body does not convert well?

Please leave Dr. Skinner be to treat his patients in the best way he knows how. He is brilliant. I really do not know what we would all do without him.

Hypothyroidism sufferer of years. Undiagnosed for god knows how many before that.



12th May 2012

To: GMC
To whom it may concern

Re: Dr Gordon Skinner
Case number ES/C1-462487326

Dear Sir,

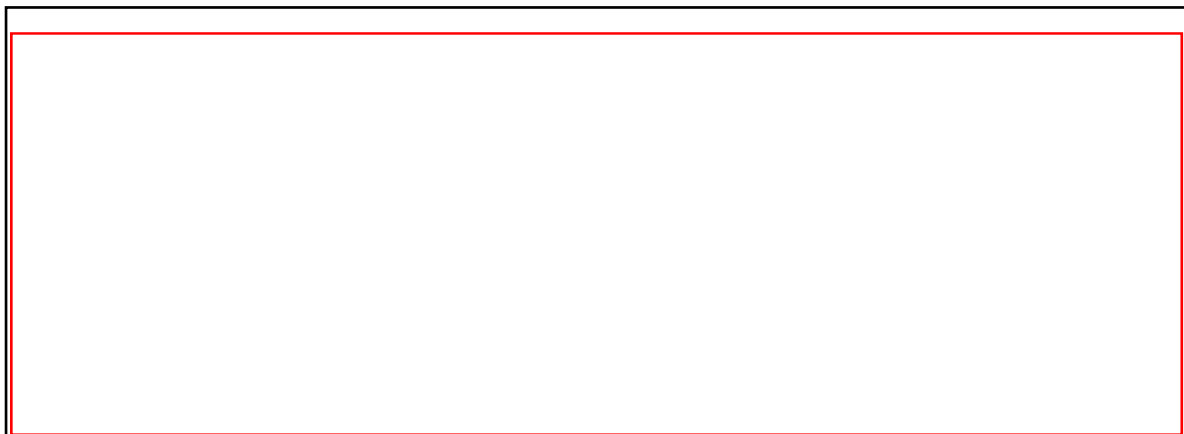
I think it absolutely ludicrous that the above doctor is going before the panel yet again!

How long will the GMC/BMA ignore the fact that thousands of hypothyroid sufferers are NOT being treated correctly?

I was treated with T4 alone for long years, during which time I informed my endocrinologist I still felt ill, despite the fact my T4 and TSH were 'normal'. I actually felt dreadful. To list but a few concerns;

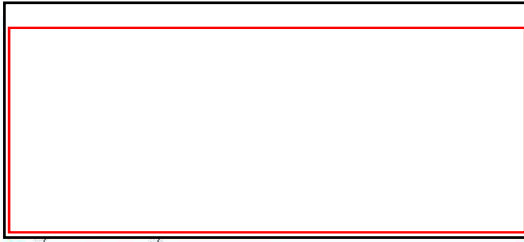
- I was unable to cope with my demanding job and was forced to resign.
-
-
-
-
-

The above are just a 'few' of my issues. My NHS endocrinologist said;



I felt desperately let down by the medical profession, so I started to research myself. I came to the conclusion I must find a doctor who understands the deeper aspect of hypothyroidism and will treat symptoms as opposed to TSH values. Eventually with Dr Skinners help I started treatment with ERFA thyroid (Natural Desiccated Thyroid)

months later.

- 
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-
-
- I returned to work

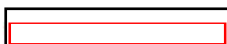
I felt I was now living rather than just surviving, so;

why is Dr Skinner being punished for understanding the deeper issues of thyroid sufferers and the complexity of the disease and recognising more research needs to be done, whilst also listening to the voices of those that suffer and need to be heard?

Only time and research will reward Dr Skinner with his proactive thinking and treatment regime.

I desperately look forward to the GMC/BMA addressing the issue of T4 treatment failure with the small, but increasing group of hypothyroid sufferers that continue to suffer ill health under the T4 TSH regime. It is nothing but appalling.

Yours truly,



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:37
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:07
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!

He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

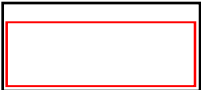
From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 15 May 2012 09:35
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

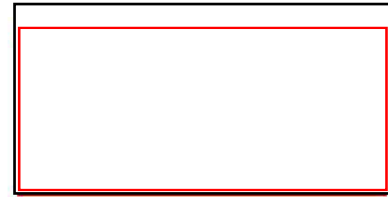
Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2012 16:45
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336); [REDACTED]
Subject: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!
He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.
You must let him continue to do his job.





12th May, 2012

C/O Mrs. Elisa Summerfield
IOP Panel
GMC
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

Dear Ms Cook,

Testimonial for Dr. G. R. B. Skinner
IOP Hearing 24th 2012-05-12

ES/C1-462487326

Dr. Skinner diagnosed me with hypothyroidism around years ago. I was returned to good health and since that time, my GP has prescribed my thyroid medication.

I found Dr. Skinner to be a caring, compassionate doctor who asked me a lot of questions about how I felt and what my symptoms were. He also checked blood pressure, pulse, temperature, etc and also did blood tests.

I hope other patients can continue to benefit from Dr. Skinner's experience and his exceptional knowledge of this debilitating illness.

Yours sincerely,

Copy sent to:

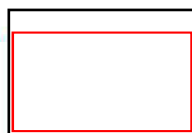
Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 17 May 2012 09:43
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: GMC again!!!

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 May 2012 20:15
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: GMC again!!!



16.5.12

Dear Madam,

Another IOP! The GMC must have money to burn.

We are all amazed at how Dr. Skinner is harassed repeatedly by the GMC. He obviously has thousands of patients who are convinced he has made their lives so much better, yet a few doctors – without their patients consent and in some cases without their knowledge – complain about his treatment. These are doctors who in some cases have not seen their patients for some time and quite clearly have very little knowledge of hypothyroidism.

Why does the GMC repeatedly harass a doctor when their own panels have acknowledged that he is a compassionate and caring doctor? Even as recently as last November the panel agreed that he should continue to practise without conditions.

Why does the GMC not do something about the real problems in medical treatment?

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 16 May 2012 09:59
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Gordon Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2012 12:54
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Re: Dr Gordon Skinner

15 May 2012

Dear Sirs

RE: Dr Gordon Skinner ES/C1-462487326

I was diagnosed with an underactive thyroid in [REDACTED]. I was put on Levythyroxine at a low dose, which was gradually increased to [REDACTED]mcg per day. My TSH ([REDACTED]) was high and FT4 [REDACTED] was in the high range but my T3 [REDACTED] was always below the lower limit. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It became obvious to me that my T4 was not converting to T3 and I felt terrible.

I found Dr Skinner after reading Diana Holmes book (Tears behind closed doors) and asked my GP to refer me for a consultation with Dr Skinner. She did refer me to Dr Skinner After a long discussion and reference to my test results Dr Skinner suggested that it might be beneficial for me to try some Liothyronine at a small dose. My GP prescribed this medication for me and it made a huge difference to my quality of life.

My blood tests improved and for the first time my Free triiodothyronine(T3) came into the range at [REDACTED]pmol/L range(3.6-6.5) It does say on my test results that the measurement of FT3 is not indicated in routine monitoring of patients on T4 replacement. My T4 was [REDACTED]range (9-19.1)and the result states - Suggests adequate replacement with thyroxine.

It is apparent that some patients do not convert T4 to T3 and without the guidance of Dr Skinner I do believe that I would be experiencing a very poor quality of life. I have seen him on a regular basis since [redacted] and his experience over the last [redacted] years have certainly helped me and I do not feel that he has ever put me at any risk.

My GP has recently suggested that I increase my Liothyronine to improve my health and after consulting Dr Skinner I have done this. I believe that he has identified a limitation in the blood test ranges for hypothyroid patients who are not responding to Levothyroxine alone and is also considering their individual symptoms.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 16 May 2012 09:58
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

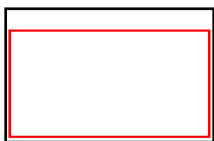
Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

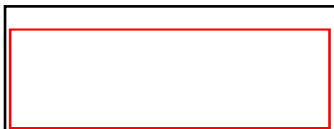
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2012 11:54
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!

He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.





16 May 2012

IOP Panel, c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield,
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
MANCHESTER
M3 3AW

Dear Sirs

Re: Dr Gordon Skinner – IOP ES/C1 - 462487326

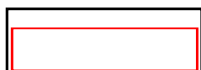
This is not the first time I have written to the GMC in support of Dr Skinner. He has successfully treated my mother, sister and my ex-girlfriend. It would not be underplaying the facts to say that his treatment had a transformative, and in the case of my ex-girlfriend, almost miraculous positive effect. When she first saw Dr Skinner she was so debilitated [redacted] that her father had to carry her into Dr Skinner's surgery. When less than [redacted] months later she bounded into his office in a transformed state even Dr Skinner was surprised by how massively her health had improved. I dread to think what might have happened had she not had this treatment.

I repeatedly fail to understand why a doctor who has improved the lives of so many patients is called again and again to appear in front of the GMC. In civilian court a man can not be tried for the same crime twice. Dr Skinner has committed no crime and yet the GMC continue to ask him again and again to answer for his actions. This is beginning to give the GMC the appearance of a Kangaroo Court rather than a body that can be trusted and respected. I have no doubt that once again hundreds of examples of the patients Dr Skinner had treated will be presented to the GMC. I hope that this time the GMC will put the patients first and end this matter once and for all in Dr Skinner's favour.

The final words of the Hippocratic Oath state, "May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help" I hope that you ask yourself whether these proceedings really *are* in the finest traditions of your calling. To the layman they appear to be at odds with it. It would be far better that you recognise Dr Skinner as being someone who is treating the patients who seek his help and healing them, as his calling demands him to do.

I hope this is the last time I have to write to you.

Sincerely.



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 16 May 2012 09:58
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: re letter of support - Dr G Skinner - ES/C1/462487326 - 24th May 2012

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2012 11:44
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: re letter of support - Dr G Skinner - ES/C1/462487326 - 24th May 2012

Dear GMC

I am writing to express my sadness and anger at yet another enquiry into Dr G Skinners practice. ES/C1/462487326 - 24th May 2012 - [REDACTED]

I was [REDACTED] fit, healthy and loved my life and job. It was [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] my life tumbled down, crumbling into pieces I could never put back together again. I was so ill and I never recovered. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The GP said there was nothing wrong as all the tests were normal and it was because I wasn't doing enough. I just had to carry on in pain and discomfort. [REDACTED]

[redacted]
[redacted] I now realise this was incorrect and I thank god I was lucky he supported me in a referral to see Dr Skinner as at that point I really felt my life could not continue as it was.

My appt was booked and I travelled to [redacted] to meet him. I wasn't sure what to expect but there were other patients in the waiting room and we all spoke together. There were similar stories to my own and they had been given their lives back by Dr Skinner and had become 100% well again. I could have never believed this would happen to me but it did. I displayed so many signs of hypothyroidism it was shocking. My thyroxin was increased again to [redacted]mcg and [redacted] weeks later it went to [redacted]mcg. I am now on [redacted]mcgs and feel great. I have my life back and I am now even considering working again which hasn't even been a thought for [redacted]yrs. I have a little way to go and trying to piece my life back together after the appalling treatment I have endured at the hands of my GP's but I will get there.

The neglect I felt I had suffered at the hands of my GP's over the last [redacted] years was disgraceful [redacted]
[redacted] Being on the other side of the fence you realise how vulnerable you are when you are so ill and cannot defend yourself and if you are complex and blood tests show no real abnormalities you are told you are making it up and get on with it. Are the medical establishment so arrogant that they have not even considered there is nothing showing up because they are looking in the wrong place or the illness may be due to there not being a 'test' to show that anomaly. Instead of saying 'well i believe you and we will try and treat the symptoms we are seeing the patient is subjected to neglect and, in my case, suffering pain, fatigue and finally my hip fractured as a direct result of long term hypothyroidism neglected by my GP's as my TSH was 'only just out of range' at [redacted]. The only Dr who has helped me and believed me was Dr Skinner and I am horrified his practices are being questioned when the neglect I suffered at the hands of my GP's was deemed as acceptable by fellow Dr's.

I have my life back but Dr Skinner is being subjected to a witch hunt because he is a Dr who cares and helps those who have been neglected by other Dr's. Failing to treat my hypothyroidism caused me untold pain and suffering – surely it is those practices that should be questioned, not those that improve the quality of life of the patients and give them their lives back. Are patients like me not worth that in the eyes of the medical profession?

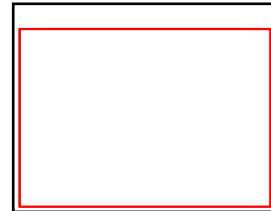
Kind Regards

[redacted]

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00774531



14th May 2012

IOP Panel
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield
GMC
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

General Medical Council	
Original was a Photocopy	
Original was Poor Quality	
Date rec for scan	16 MAY 2012
Original has been Photocopied to improve Scan Quality	
Document has physical objects ref:	

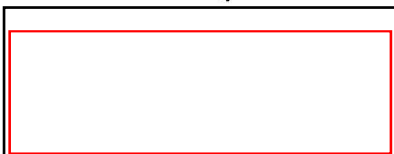
Dear Mrs Summerfield

I am writing with regard to Dr Gordon Skinner, case No: ES/C1-462487326, he has to appear before an IOP on 24th May 2012.

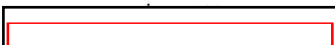
I am a patient of Dr Skinner and he has brought me to health again after years of visiting my GP practise and the various doctors there would not or could not help me to get to the bottom of my declining health. Much to my dismay and despair I lost those years and cannot get them back. The only thing I can do now is live my life to the full to try and make up for some of that time.

Therefore I would be very distressed if I was not able to be a patient of Dr Skinner and I support him fully in his endeavour to end this ludicrous matter.

Yours sincerely



CC DR. SKINNER



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 16 May 2012 09:59
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Case no. ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2012 13:04
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Case no. ES/C1-462487326

Case no. ES/C1-462487326

Dr Gordon Skinner, [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs Summerfield,

I am a patient of Dr Skinner and wish to record my experience of his medical practice and its effect on me.

I would like to note that, when it comes to concerns about T4 levels, under Dr Skinner's care I have lower T4 levels than when I was under the care of NHS consultants.

In the comments which follow, it will be noted that I was left unwell for several years by doctors whose approach to hypothyroidism was not successful in meeting my need to be well. That failure, of course, is why patients such as myself go to see Dr Skinner: the standard approach to treatment has failed us. I think the committee must ask a basic question of the doctors who complain about Dr Skinner's approach: What is it they would do to make patients well in place of that approach? And, if they claim they are already doing it, why were their patients going to see Dr Skinner in the first place?

Leaving patients in poor health might be something a GP is willing to do, blind as they are to the daily lives of such a patient, but I find it perverse for anyone in the medical profession to be so accepting of such an outcome. Yet that is what some doctors are, when it comes to the hypothyroid patient.

I had been ill for several years before I was diagnosed with hypothyroidism in [REDACTED], confirmed by blood tests. Treatment with Thyroxine followed, with limited benefit despite my blood levels returning to "normal" values. An NHS consultant considered that I had a form of thyroxine resistance and prescribed [REDACTED] mcg T3 daily, on which dose I improved for a time but this did not last.

Some years later, and still in very poor health, I consulted Dr Skinner.

Following a thorough examination, he diagnosed to be clinically hypothyroid despite thyroid function tests which indicated that I was "well-replaced".

His assessment was in accord with the consultants whom I had previously seen.

Dr Skinner's treatment - with varying doses of T3 and T4 initially - was again in accord with previous assessments which I had received. After some time with no significant improvement, the further option of a natural thyroid extract was tried. 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 that 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 been successful and led to an improvement in my health and quality of life. From being virtually housebound I am able to go out and enjoy my life, to take long walks whatever the weather, and to attend to chores. Indeed, I no longer need a car to take me to my GP for my thyroid function test - I walk there.

That I have had this level of health and fitness for the last few years is thanks to Dr Skinner.

Again, I note that my T4 level in blood tests is lower now than when I was treated, unsuccessfully, by some of the consultants I saw in the NHS.

That Dr Skinner 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.

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 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,

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 16 May 2012 09:59
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Gordon Skinner - ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2012 16:13
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr Gordon Skinner - ES/C1-462487326

Dear Mrs Summerfield,

I am writing to give a testimonial for Dr Gordon Skinner who I believe has been asked to attend an IOP on 24th May 2012.

I am a relatively new patient of Dr Skinner and first saw him in [REDACTED]. I have suffered with an underactive thyroid since [REDACTED] and since then have rarely felt well despite taking thyroxine.

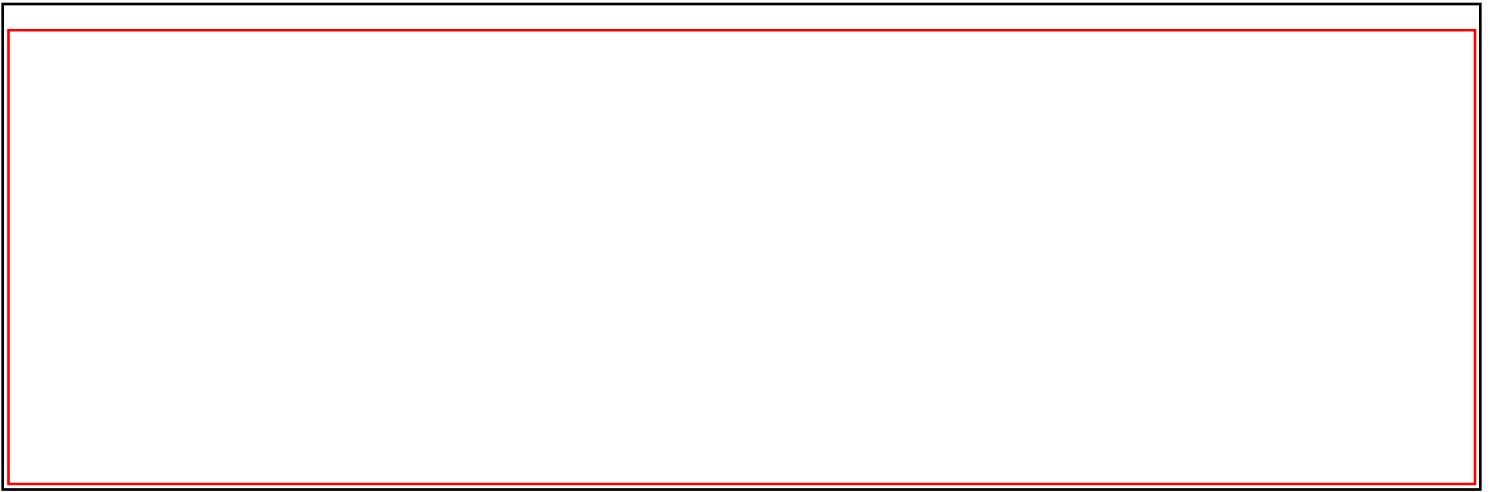
After feeling particularly unwell [REDACTED] and struggling to get any support from my GP and a referral to an endocrinologist I asked for a referral to Dr Skinner. The only options available to me on the NHS were thyroxine or anti depressants.

Within [REDACTED] of my last appointment with him and after changing my medication I am now feeling better than I have in years and strongly believe I would never have got better if I had not seen him and am very concerned about what is currently happening. Without Dr Skinner's help I feel I am likely to end up in the same position as I was [REDACTED] which ultimately is likely to lead to further illness and time of work.

I would urge the GMC to consider how many patients like me he has helped safely when their GPs and other specialists have failed them. At no time have I ever felt concerned about the way my condition has been managed by Dr Skinner and am extremely worried about what will happen if he does not continue to practice.

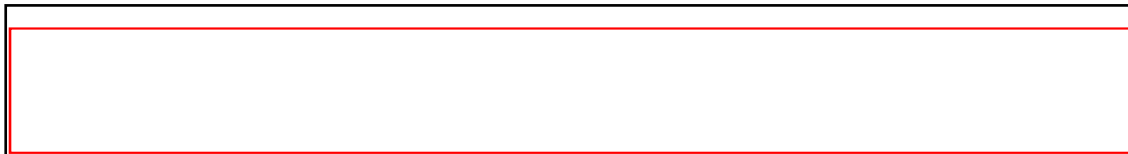
Kind regards,

[REDACTED]





00774306



13 May 2012

**IOP Panel, c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield,
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
MANCHESTER
M3 3AW**

General Medical Council	
Original was a Photocopy	
Original was Poor Quality	
Date rec for scan	15 MAY 2012
Original has been Photocopied to improve Scan Quality	
Document had physical objects ref	

Dear Sirs

Re: Dr Gordon Skinner - IOP ES/C1 - 462487326

I cannot believe that I am having to write to the GMC yet again in support of Dr Skinner.

I wrote to you in 2005, again in 2006, yet again in 2007 and finally in 2011 to express my admiration of his technical skill, medical judgment and straightforward commonsense.

Late in 2011 he was fully cleared by the GMC of all accusations and allowed to get on unhampered with his exemplary care of his many thousands of patients.

Why is the GMC now allowing more members of the profession yet again to question their own decision of just 7 months ago?

Who are these doctors who are now trying once more to discredit Dr Skinner? Are they the same ones as before? What is their motive? Why is the GMC prepared to allow them to proceed after they cleared Dr Skinner only a few months ago?

The fundamental question the whole of the GMC must ask is simple: Why is Dr Skinner's outstanding capability and service to countless hypothyroid sufferers still in any question whatsoever?

I feel obliged to repeat my wife's story.

She suffered with hypothyroidism for [redacted] years until Dr Skinner gave her appropriate doses of thyroxine, which restored her to full health in a matter of months. Read that sentence again, and ask yourself how YOU would feel if that were a member of YOUR family.

[redacted] years of 'half life' for want of being prescribed adequate doses of thyroxine! Recovery within months! Does this not shout out as skilled treatment by a professional who has specialised in the area of hypothyroidism? Someone whose close understanding of this disease should be made known widely rather than be called into question for incomprehensible reasons?

Dr Skinner has restored full and active life to thousands of people who, without his considered treatment, would have continued in the 'half life' to which they were condemned by GPs who slavishly adhered to the Blood Test Guidelines for individuals suffering from hypothyroidism, ignoring the obvious symptoms displayed by their patients simply because the Guidelines said they were 'well'.

Both my wife and I are totally indebted to Dr Skinner. And our daughter too, whose health has improved immeasurably since becoming his patient. And other members of our family. And several friends and acquaintances. That is just our immediate experience. This is repeated countless times across the country.

The GMC now has a duty to put a stop to this irrational persecution of Dr Skinner. Rather, it should recognise the huge positive contribution he has made to the well-being of so many hypothyroid sufferers and leave him free to carry on his good work.

Yours sincerely

--

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 16 May 2012 09:58
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Case ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2012 11:41
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Case ES/C1-462487326

In Support of Dr. G.R.B. Skinner 15/05/12

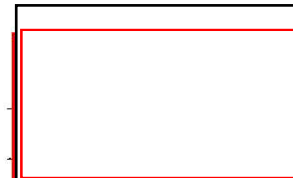
I have been referred to Dr. Skinner as a result of long-standing health problems that my G.P. has been unable to address. So far I have had [REDACTED] consultations with Dr. Skinner and my health has improved considerably [REDACTED]

I am writing to express my complete confidence in his diagnosis and treatment. I also feel that it is imperative that patients can, if necessary, access physicians such as Dr. Skinner who have the breadth of knowledge and experience to give a true 'second opinion'.

Thank you for your attention. [REDACTED]



General Notes	
Original was a Photocopy	
Original was Poor Quality	
Date rec	16 MAY 2012
for scan	
Original has been Photocopied to improve Scan Quality	
Document had physical object ref	



12 May 12

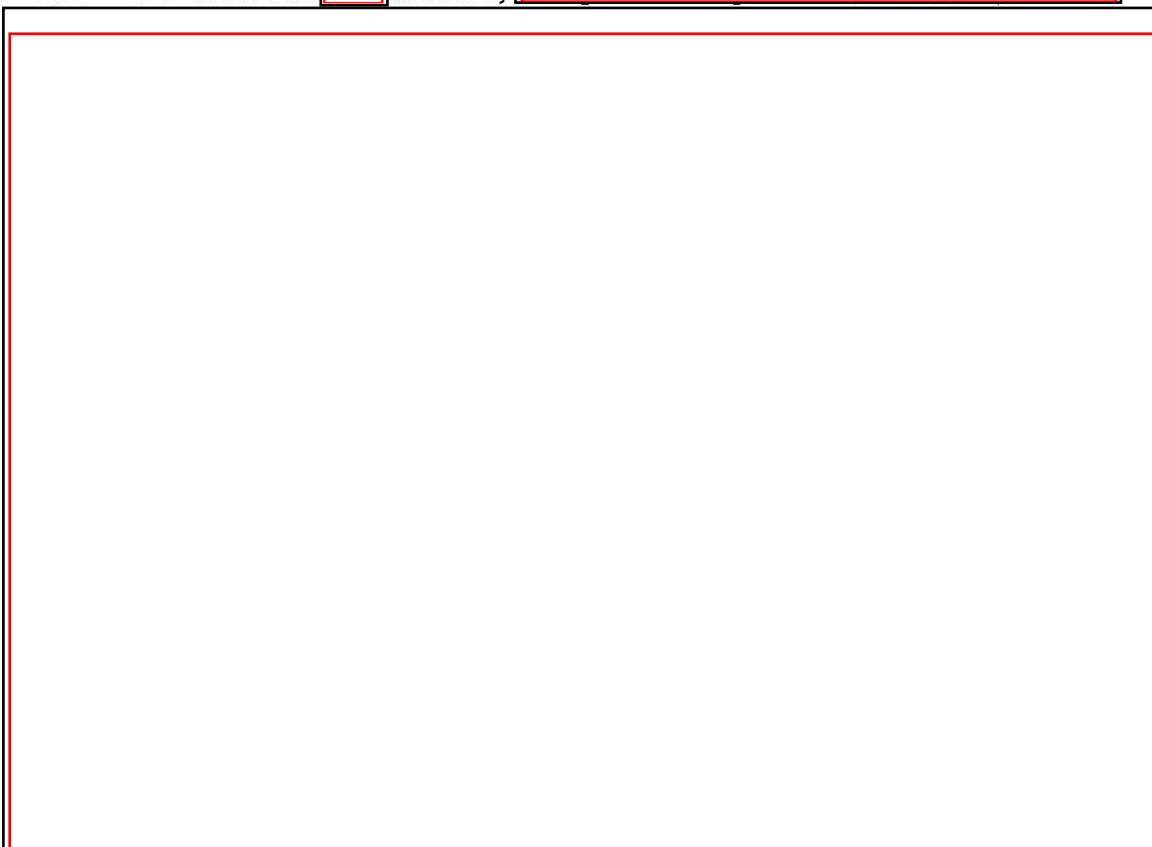
Re: Case no. ES/CI462487326

Dear Mrs. Summerfield,

I write in regard to the excellent treatment I have received from Dr Skinner.

I will start with some medical history. I had been prescribed Levothyroxine for hypothyroidism since [redacted]

Although my TSH and T4 levels as seen in my annual blood test results remained within the "normal" range according to my GP, I began to suffer from unusually bad health in the winters of [redacted] onwards, [redacted]



I felt so awful I searched for information on the internet and found out about Armor Thyroid and ordered some online. I was so tired and desperate that I could not have found the fight to ask my doctor's permission (I had had to plead with him to put me on thyroxine to begin with even with a TSH of 10 and to arrange an increase in 2000). Within a few days of taking Armor in Mar 2012 [redacted] I began to feel better, the permanent confusion and exhaustion that I felt melted away and I began to feel alive again,

instead of just existing.

I first saw Dr Skinner in [redacted] He took a list and listened to all my symptoms solicitously, examined my thyroid, blood pressure and skin and took my temperature. With his guidance I have returned to taking Armor building up more slowly and phasing out the blood pressure pills.

I have had [redacted] further appointments with Dr Skinner who again demonstrated skill and care in listening to my symptoms and progress. At my last appointment in [redacted] he considered that I was on the correct dose of Armor.

To summarise, Dr Skinner's treatment has been most solicitous and effective for me. I have only had positive effects from taking Armor thyroid at the correct dose to ease my symptoms, notwithstanding the interaction with the redundant [redacted] and now have returned to enjoying an active life which seemed a world away at the beginning of [redacted] This would not have happened if I had relied solely on my GP to treat my hypothyroidism.

Please add this to the letters of Support for Dr Skinner.

Yours sincerely,

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 16 May 2012 10:00
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: ES/C1-462487326 - Gordon Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2012 18:18
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: ES/C1-462487326 - Gordon Skinner

For the attention of Mrs Elisa Summerfield

Dear Mrs Summerfield,

I am writing to let you know how bitterly disappointed with the General Medical Council, yet again for disturbing Dr Skinner's valuable work in his clinics.

Dr Gordon Skinner has helped hundreds of hypothyroid patients return to good health. He does not deserve to be constantly hounded by doctors and endocrinologists who are following RCP and BTA guidelines which, following these actions keeps hundreds of people with hypothyroidism unwell.

There are so many GP's and Endocrinologists in the UK who should be investigated who's actions are causing harm to patients.

Dr Gordon Skinner is not causing harm to any of his patients, he is helping them!

I have seen several GP's and 4 endocrinologists as I had difficult hypothyroidism. Dr Gordon Skinner was the only doctor that treated me with respect and understood my symptoms.

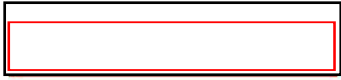
Continually calling Dr Gordon Skinner for these hearings is a waste of time and money for every taxpayer and for all of those supporters who will be travelling to attend the hearing.

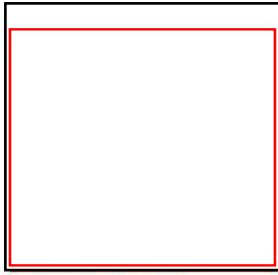
There are many patients suffering because of the way that thyroid disease is being treated, we need a lot more doctors like Dr Gordon Skinner!

If only all GP's and Endocrinologists would learn from Dr Gordon Skinner, if they could just read his book it would be a start! They would learn so much!!

Please concentrate your efforts on investigating doctors who are harming patients - Please leave Dr Gordon Skinner alone!

Regards,







Case number for IOP ES/C1-462487326.

16.05.12

Dear Sir/Madam,

It was with great upset that I saw that Dr Skinner is yet again to appear before the GMC. I am writing in full support of Dr Skinner as a Consultant I have the highest regard for.

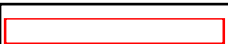
 months ago (after much searching for help and support for my condition) my husband and I went to see Dr Skinner for treatment for my hypothyroidism. He has restored my health and returned me to some kind of normality when all else had failed. I was living life with no energy,  and generally barely existing.

Throughout my treatment Dr Skinner has been exemplary, working with my GP, requesting regular blood tests, taking my blood pressure and assessing my general health. He has taken detailed information about my symptoms and progress throughout my treatment.

I am a member of Thyroid UK and the support for him is immense. People only have highly positive comments to make about Dr Skinner and he is held in very high regard (unlike the GMC)

I offer only my fullest support as does my husband and children as they now have a wife and mother back in their lives. If you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 16 May 2012 10:00
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP hearing Dr Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2012 20:28
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: IOP hearing Dr Skinner

Dear Elisa Summerfield

Ref ES/C1-462487326

I have an Aunt who has been a patient of Dr Skinner for a number of years since [REDACTED] and I am aware that without the treatment she received from this Doctor who diagnosed Hypothyroidism in place of the [REDACTED] which the NHS Endocrinologists said that she was suffering from, where no further medical help was forthcoming.

I understand that she was given Thyroxin as she had all the signs and symptoms of an under active thyroid. This medication has put her life back on track after a decade of ill health that led her to desperation after she

[REDACTED]

This Doctor needs the support of the GMC to make sure the harassment from the numerous other medical sources is stopped to enable him to continue treating successfully his thousands of patients.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

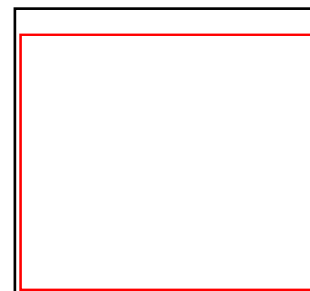
Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 16 May 2012 10:00
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr . Gordon Skinner. Case no.ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2012 21:03
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr . Gordon Skinner. Case no.ES/C1-462487326



15th May, 2012

Dear Mrs Summerfield,

Dr . Gordon Skinner. Case no.ES/C1-462487326

I am writing to express my concern over Dr. Skinner being asked to attend an Interim Order Panel on 24th May.

I have been disabled for many years and am under the care of Professor [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED]. [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. I was struggling with incapacitating symptoms including [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] I was steadily growing worse.

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. [redacted]

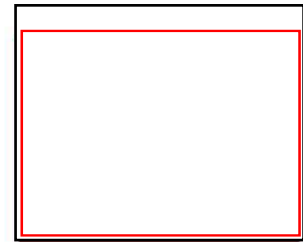
Dr. Bill Reith of the Royal College of General Practitioners has said that being hypothyroid "is a disease where it is crucial that the doctor treats the patient and not the blood test result." I have endured years of unnecessary illness because this is so often forgotten.

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]

Cc Dr. Skinner.



15 May 2012

IOP Panel
C/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

Dear Ms Summerfield

Ref ES/C1-462487326

I have a friend who has been a patient of Dr Skinner for a number of years since [redacted] and I am aware that without the treatment she received from this Doctor who diagnosed Hypothyroidism in place of the diagnosis of [redacted] which the NHS Endocrinologists said that she was suffering from. Following this incorrect diagnosis there was no further medical help forthcoming.

I understand that she was prescribed Thyroxin by Dr Skinner as she had all the signs and symptoms of an under active thyroid. This medication has put her life back on track after a decade of ill health that led her to desperation after she [redacted]

[redacted]

Dr Skinner should receive the support of the GMC to make sure the harassment from the numerous other medical sources is stopped thus enabling him to continue to successfully treat his thousands of patients.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 16 May 2012 10:01
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner...Support

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2012 23:55
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr Skinner...Support

To whom it may concern.

I am a [REDACTED] Hypothyroid sufferer. [REDACTED] I have read with interest over the last two years the many many cases of people being helped by Dr Skinner. I have been impressed by Dr Skinners medical knowledge insightfulness and just how successful he has been helping people just by thinking outside the box a little.

I have learned over the years that you just cannot fit everyone inside a little box that says "cured" or "not cured" everyone is an individual and should be treated as such and Dr Skinner does do this and the results speak for themselves. I fully intend to go to see Dr Skinner with my own problem as I never feel well despite being classified as "normal" as far as my blood tests are concerned. I don't feel normal I feel ill, therefore something isn't right but I know that most GP's are too terrified to step out of line by trying to help a Hypothyroid patient even though it can make the patient well, how stupid is that?

Please let brilliant Doctors like Dr Skinner carry on helping thousands of patients that otherwise will be consigned to the scrap heap with no life and no one who cares!

Best wishes to Dr Skinner,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 17 May 2012 09:42
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr. Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 May 2012 10:51
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: IOP panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr. Skinner

The work dr. Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on.

He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors.

We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 17 May 2012 09:43
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Case number ES/C1-462487326 - Dr Gordon Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 May 2012 15:07
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Case number ES/C1-462487326 - Dr Gordon Skinner

It is with sadness I hear that Dr Skinner has been asked to attend another hearing of the GMC after having been previously cleared so many times. Is all this conspiracy, jealousy, misunderstanding or what- I wonder?

All I can say is that Dr Skinner gives his patients time - asks many questions, observes gives one options explaining the situation and leaves you the patient to decide which option you would rather take.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I religiously had the blood tests every year and every time they came back 'Normal'. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] blood tests are not infallible on their own and how dangerous it can be not to look for other symptoms.

[REDACTED]

Please give this very gifted, professional and highly qualified Dr a break!

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 17 May 2012 09:43
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinners Hearing

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 May 2012 15:14
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Re: Dr Skinners Hearing

Dear Mrs Summerfield

I am sending this again because I missed out the IOP reference no:-

462487326

I understand that Dr Skinner has been summoned again and while I have not been a patient of his I had to find a private doctor to diagnose my hypothyroidism and low adrenal reserve.

I was becoming increasingly tired with a range of unexplained symptoms and thought I had ME or an underactive thyroid. I asked my GP on several occasions about the possibility of my symptoms being due to a thyroid condition but was repeatedly reassured that my TSH readings were normal and there was no need to check my blood for T3 and T4. [REDACTED]

Fortunately I discovered that some doctors do check further even if TSH levels appear normal and to cut a long story short, I found a private doctor and tests showed that as well as having low T3 and T4 I also had [REDACTED]

My GP has subsequently acknowledged that I am hypothyroid but have been told they do not test [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am therefore writing in support of the work Dr Skinner does to correctly diagnose thyroid problems. I feel I could have had my condition diagnosed and treated several years earlier than it was if only my GP at the time would have tested for T3 and T4.

I would also like to say that while my GP is happy to prescribe Levothyroxine I feel so much better when taking a Natural Dessicated Thyroid which unfortunately I have to obtain privately because again the NHS is not willing to offer this.

I do hope the panel will take my experience into account and I only wish Dr Skinner had his practice close to where I live because I would be first in line to sign up with his practice.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:44
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2012 14:55
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]; letters@guardian.co.uk; letters@observer.co.uk; dtnews@telegraph.co.uk; stnews@telegraph.co.uk; home.news@thetimes.co.uk; letters@thetimes.co.uk; letters@the-sun.co.uk; exclusive@the-sun.co.uk
Subject: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!

He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 22 May 2012 09:25
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Ref ES/C1-462487326-Dr GRB Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 May 2012 12:53
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Fw: Ref ES/C1-462487326-Dr GRB Skinner

From: [Mike Taylor](#)
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 12:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ref ES/C1-462487326-Dr GRB Skinner

To whom it may concern,
ref.Case number ES/C1-462487326- Dr .GRB .Skinner.

I am writing in support of Dr. Gordon Skinner, who has been requested to appear before an Interim Orders Panel on 24th May 2012.

I am very concerned about the GMC's treatment of Dr.Skinner, which can only be described as continual ,vexatious harassment of an extremely competent and knowledgeable doctor who has returned thousands of patients to good health,who previously had been left to deteriorate by their own GP's.

Yet again, it seems that the Patient in this case has not had any concerns over Dr.Skinner's treatment,and has had no part in the complaint against him.

It is extremely concerning that the GP's who are so quick to criticise Dr .Skinner's treatments,are ,in fact,the ones who are doing so much harm to their patients through their own negligence and lack of knowledge.
It is these Gp's who should be brought before the GMC for failing their patients and letting their patients health deteriorate to the extent it reaches prior to Dr Skinner's intervention.

Dr. Skinner saved my life after years of neglect and incompetence by Doctors at my own surgery, yet the Doctors that were incompetent in my diagnosis [despite a previous history of thyroid disease!!!!] are not up before the GMC!

My own family has been devastated by thyroid disease ,and I fear for the future health of my four children who have all been affected , if the current situation in this country is allowed to continue.

My Father-in-law suffered [REDACTED] before eventually being diagnosed with Severe Hypothyroidism , which had been the cause of his heart problems. Yet again an example of the lack of training of his GP in diagnosing a thyroid Problem , let alone knowing the devastating effect a lack of thyroid hormone can have on the heart.

My Father-in-law endured years of [NEEDLESS !!!] Suffering and a very poor quality of life , because his Thyroid Condition was not picked up,-due to a lack of understanding and training of Gp's [And Endocrinologists] in this country in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Thyroid Disease.

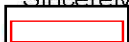
I therefore Implore you to listen to the PATIENT'S implicated in the concerns being raised against Dr Skinner. Dr .Skinner's Patients are not complaining about his treatments, and are, in fact ,very relieved and thankful that at last they are seeing improvements in their health and have hope for their futures.

The GMC is in place to protect Patients – Not to leave them to vegetate and die by allowing this disgraceful lack of training in Thyroid Disease.

PLEASE LISTEN TO THE PATIENTS !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Dr .Skinner Is a Wonderful Doctor who has given us back our Lives.

Sincerely,



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:45
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2012 23:25
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: ES/C1-462487326

I am writing to you in support of Dr Skinner and his most excellent care of his thyroid patients whose illness have been ignored by their own GPs
I am one of these patients, [REDACTED] years ago my thyroid stopped working and after blood tests my GP prescribed thyroxine, I got no better, more blood tests and a higher dose of thyroxine, no better, more blood tests a higher dose of thyroxine. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was now feeling so ill and so tired that I was struggling to do a full day at work, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Throughout this time ([REDACTED] years) I had repeatedly asked my GP if there was a different thyroid medication that I could take because the thyroxine was not working and made me feel so ill, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was repeatedly told no the was no other treatment, my blood

tests said I was okay therefore I was okay. This was so obviously not the case that I started to look for help elsewhere. Fortunately a friend knew someone who had been to see someone who listened and helped and I discovered Dr Gordon Skinner. I first saw him [redacted] ago and after a long consultation he suggested that I tried a different type of medication, the same medication that a friend of mine who is a dr had also told me about that was the medication that used to be prescribed for hyperthyroidism before the cheap synthetic levothyroxin started being used: armour thyroid.

I changed over gradually from levo to armour and after about [redacted]

[redacted] I was at last beginning to feel more normal and people even started to tell me how much better I was looking.

Both I and my gp learned a very serious lesson from this recent episode: that lesson is that when it comes to the treatment of hyperthyroidism Dr Gordon Skinner is most certainly the expert to listen to and pct's and nice are defiantly not, I would ask you to also take very serious note of this lesson and allow Dr Skinner to continue uninterrupted with his excellent and skilled work.

It a well attested fact that some drugs work for some people and not for others: penicillin will cure me but kill another. It is the same with levothyroxin, there may be some people that it works for - but I am not one of those people, it is due entirely to Dr Skinners skill and judgement that I am alive and well today to write to you and also continue to work and contribute to society rather than end up in hospital too tired and debilitated to look after myself.

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:39
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: re Case No. ES/C1-462487326 - Dr. G.Skinner.

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 May 2012 14:34
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: re Case No. ES/C1-462487326 - Dr. G.Skinner.

Dear General Medical Council,

Why oh! Why are you persecuting this Doctor, when he is trying to help the many, many people with ME some of whom have thyroid difficulties, yet again.

We would implore you (as my husband and self have suffered [REDACTED] to allow this Doctor to carry on with treating patients who are suffering many different symptoms with this illness, without putting him through the trauma of yet another I.O.P Panel hearing.

Please, as human beings, consider the sick people this Doctor is trying to help. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

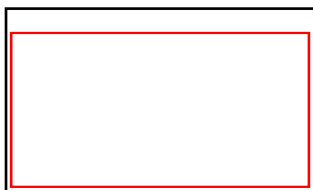
Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:40
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner's IOP.

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 May 2012 18:23
Cc: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336); [redacted]
Subject: Dr Skinner's IOP.



th May 2012

Dear Elisa Summerfield

Ref ES/C1-462487326

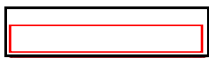
I have a sister who has been a patient of Dr Skinner for a number of years since [redacted] and I am aware that without the treatment she received from this Doctor who diagnosed Hypothyroidism in place of the [redacted] of which the NHS Endocrinologists said that she was suffering from, where no further medical help was forthcoming.

I understand that she was given Thyroxin as she had all the signs and symptoms of an under active thyroid. This medication has put her life back on track after a decade of ill health that led her to desperation [redacted]

[redacted]

This Doctor needs the support of the GMC to make sure the harassment from the numerous other medical sources is stopped to enable him to continue treating successfully his thousands of patients.

Yours sincerely

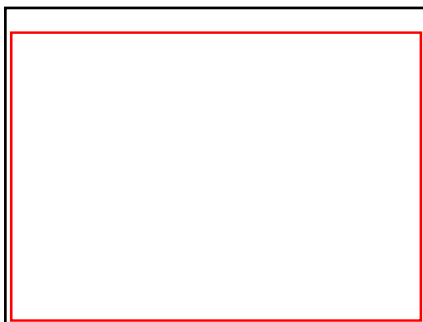
A rectangular box with a red border, used to redact a signature.

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:40
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr G R B Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 May 2012 17:06
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr G R B Skinner



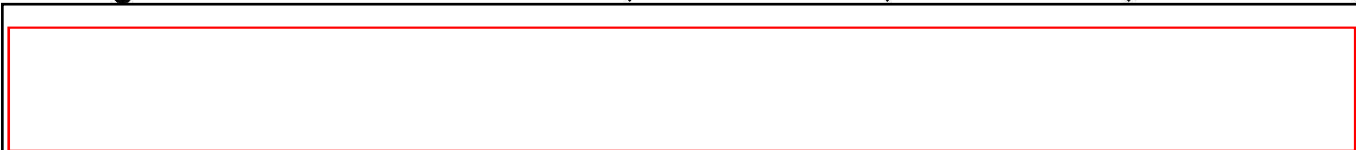
Dear E. summerfield,

I write to you to tell you my brief story about my thyroid illness and how Dr. Skinner changed my life.

I was diagnosed with a under active thyroid in [REDACTED] when I was [REDACTED], after years of going to the doctor saying I didn't feel well, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to name but few symptoms that I had then.

My then doctor at the time put me on thyroxine and 'said' I would be feeling better after a month or so, but I did not , I felt worse , a lot worse,



I stopped taking thyroxine to see how I felt, and after a week or so I started to feel a little better, but when my doctor requested a blood test they told me I had to start taking it again, I told them that thyroxine did not

agree with me, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] they said that it was the ONLY treatment there was, so I HAD to take it .

So I Started to do a bit of research in to thyroid disorders, and I found out there was other treatments available , quite a few different ones, and doctor Skinner was the man to see.

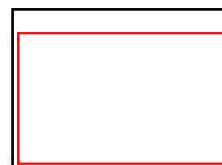
So I went to my doctors to ask them to refer me to see doctor Skinner, after a long talk he decided that thyroxine did not agree with me [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] so we talked about natural desiccated thyroid, what was used years before the "cheap to make" thyroxine was available, after [REDACTED] I felt better than I had in a long time, I've now been on it for [REDACTED] months and slowly one by one my symptoms are easing, I feel 90% better than I have done for years, doctor Skinner is life saver, I cannot believe that a good honest doctor is being treated this way, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I will be going to support doctor Skinner at his hearing as I wish there was more doctors like him.

Regards,



19th May 2012

Case Number ES/C1-462487326
Dr G Skinner
Thursday 24th May 2012

IOP Panel
C/O Mrs Elisa Summerfield
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

RE: Dr G. Skinner MD DSc FRCPath, FRCG; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am writing this letter in support of Dr G Skinner as I am deeply concerned that the GMC have found it necessary to bring such a well-respected doctor (highly respected by his patients) before the IOP Panel again. Although not a patient of Dr Skinner I have read with great interest his publications on the subject of hypothyroidism. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have endured, in my view, poor and inadequate treatment under the NHS; I find his insight into the symptoms and treatment of hypothyroidism excellent information for myself as a patient. Also from my experience as a patient I cannot help but agree with him.

Since thyroid hormones are vital for every organ and process in the body it is surprising that more doctors from other specialities do not in follow in Dr Skinner's footsteps and take as much interest in the treatment and diagnosis of this condition. Perhaps medical schools have a part to play here and I believe he would be an excellent teacher in this important subject. Dr Skinner is therefore to be admired as being a very well qualified doctor, but not an endocrinologist, who can however bring another perspective in analysing the symptoms endured by the patient. He must also be admired for providing adequate treatment which is acceptable to the patient. This is not something I have received under the NHS. I therefore consider his patients are extremely fortunate to have him as their doctor.

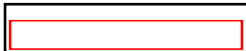
Dr Skinner has been described as "*a caring and compassionate doctor whose overwhelming concern is the care and wellbeing of your patients*". He should therefore be applauded for behaving in this fashion. In my experience I have discovered that the health risks of untreated hypothyroidism can be extremely serious. A doctor, like Dr Skinner, who looks closely at symptoms as well as blood tests, is therefore I believe behaving in an extremely responsible

fashion towards his patients. It is only through the dedication of such doctors as Dr Skinner that progress will be made, in this country, in the treatment of this condition.

I conclude in saying that Dr Skinner should be allowed to continue his important work in helping patients to regain their health. I am very sad that I was not referred to him a number of years ago as I am sure he could have saved me considerable suffering.

Dr Skinner has my full unqualified support. I would have wished to have attended the hearing if sufficient notice had been given.

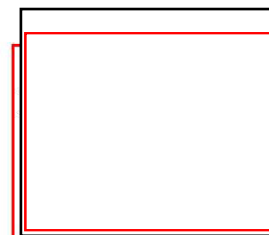
Yours faithfully





00774945

General Medical Council	
Original was a Photocopy	
Original was Poor Quality	
Date rec for scan	17 MAY 2012
Original has been Photocopied to improve its Quality	
Content has physical objects ref	



IOP Panel
C/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

12th May 2012
Case no ES/C1-462487326

Dear Elisa Summerfield

Another Interim Orders Panel for Dr GRB Skinner, Is this a farce?

The GMC do have the ability to treat these further complaints as harassment against Dr Skinner as they have done in the past. It is obvious by the number of complaints from the medical profession that the complaints are being orchestrated.

As far as I know Dr Skinner has done only good for his patients including myself, a very grateful patient who wouldn't be on this earth without his successful treatment.

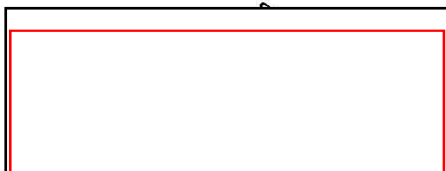
The GMC have done us a service in a roundabout way, as we are no longer singular in this fight for our health from this terrible disease of Hypothyroidism. Because; it is a fight; owing to the majority of endocrinologists extreme reliance on the blood guidelines of which a very large percentage of people don't appear to belong. Therefore. Very sick British people are let down by both the medical profession and the GMC in their intransigence or possibly in the event of loosing face.

Why are the doctors not taking note of the man at the top, The Chief Medical Officer? He advises doctors "Not to rely too heavily on blood tests for the recognition of Hypothyroidism, but to look at each individual patients signs and symptoms". The majority of the medical profession is blatantly ignoring this statement from the Chief Medical Officer. WHY?

The complainants are able to complain and sit back, hopefully of seeing Dr Skinner struck off, so they can resume malpractice, causing misdiagnosis as they are doing at present. They are not brought before the IOP. However. Dr Skinner has to postpone his surgery and direct his defence at a great expense to him and everyone concerned.

As you are aware Dr Skinner has a huge following of grateful patients. This is partly due to, if he goes, so does their health. Therefore the GMC have a duty of care to follow the words of their Chief Medical Officer and to stop this harassment that otherwise will go on and on and on.

Yours Sincerely



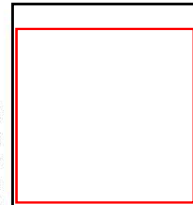


00774705

15 May 2012

IOP Panel
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

General Medical Council	
Original was a Photocopy	
Original was Poor Quality	
Date rec for scan	17 MAY 2012
Original has been Photocopied to improve Scan Quality	
Document had physical objects ref	



Dear Mrs Summerfield

Re: Dr Skinner IOP case no ES/CI-462487326 24 May 2012

I write in support of Dr Skinner. I owe him my eventual recovery to full health.

I was diagnosed severely hypothyroid in [redacted]. T4 was the only medication ever offered me in the UK but T4 did not alleviate all my symptoms. A succession of G.P.'s in [redacted] and [redacted] dismissed my failing health because they were, to a man, concerned exclusively with TSH results. Dr Skinner's work inspired me to educate myself about thyroid disease and investigate different treatment options. [redacted] years of suffering later [redacted] a Consultant [redacted] agreed to treat me and not the lab tests. Within days of stopping T4 and beginning T3 the difference in how I felt was nothing short of miraculous. Within weeks I had my life back.

The GMC's relentless pursuit of such a good and honourable physician must jeopardise Dr Skinner's work since time spent on the defence of his reputation is time stolen from his many grateful patients, and from all those like me who have never met him but who benefit indirectly from his research.

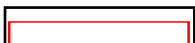
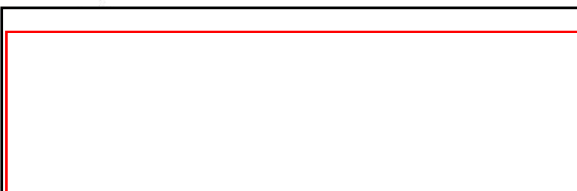
The GMC should instead investigate the disgraceful state of affairs which exists currently in endocrinology where patients like me suffer needlessly for many years. The supremacy of the TSH test is as absurd as it is unjustified. Enforcing the diktat that T4 is the one and only cure for all hypothyroid patients is wrong on many counts: it damages many, many patients; it ruins lives; it is proven to be arrant nonsense by the many hypothyroid patients like me who need T3 to recover their health.

I for one can state categorically that [redacted] years of various doses of levothyroxine did not make me better. Helped indirectly by Dr Skinner's wise approach to hypothyroidism, and by information I could access from the invaluable and excellent Thyroid Patient Advocacy I was empowered to request an alternative to T4. T3, [redacted] has restored me to full health.

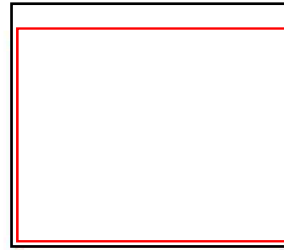
I am horrified Dr Skinner is yet again forced to defend his good name. His dedication, diagnostic skill and vast experience of successfully treating many patients puts most others who claim to understand thyroid disease to utter shame.

The GMC should cease forthwith its campaign against Dr Skinner.

Yours sincerely



cc: Dr Skinner via email



21st May 2012

Re:- DR SKINNER case number ES/C1-462487326

Dear Sirs,

I write with regard to Dr Skinner who has been treating my partner [redacted] since [redacted].

[redacted] began suffering from extreme fatigue in [redacted] and she became increasingly unable to lead a normal active life.

We sought treatment initially from her GP and then from a general consultant, and an consultant endocrinologist consultant. The GP ordered thyroid tests and was pleased to learn that the results were within normal parameters and therefore advised that the problem lay elsewhere but was unable to be more specific. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] became increasingly fatigued and frustrated that conventional medicine could neither diagnose the problem nor offer any solution. Our impression was that they practised “diagnosis by text book” in that they tested and measured and when they found the results to be in accordance with text book parameters they appeared both cynical and helpless.

[redacted], in increasing desperation, trawled through web pages looking for people who had experienced similar symptoms, and eventually found Dr Skinner to whom she was referred by her GP. Our initial impression at the first meeting was that Dr Skinner had time to listen to the problem, understood the effect that the symptoms were having on her life, and was prepared to consider a diagnosis that was unconventional, based not upon laboratory tests but on how she felt. The meeting with Dr Skinner and subsequent prescriptions of thyroxin and armour thyroid, have enabled [redacted] to almost return to a normal life, where she used to have the odd “good” day, she now has the odd “bad” day.

I believe that Dr Skinner has researched and specialised in this elusive illness, and offers his patients a lifeline that no-one else that we consulted had any enthusiasm to discover. In my opinion this illness is one of the “too difficult” variety that confound doctors who have only Laboratory tests and text books to support them. Dr Skinner however, has had the courage to challenge conventional thinking and has given [redacted] and many other patients a quality of life that they had despaired of ever experiencing again.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:44
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2012 14:20
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

Please! The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!

He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:42
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Case No ES/CI-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 19 May 2012 11:16
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Case No ES/CI-462487326

Dear Elisa Summerfield

Another Interim Orders Panel for Dr GRB Skinner. Is this a farce?

The GMC does have the ability to treat these further complaints as harassment against Dr Skinner as they have done in the past. It is obvious by the number of complaints from the medical profession that the complaints are being orchestrated.

As far as I know Dr Skinner has done only good for his patients including a very close and dear friend who probably would not still be alive without his successful treatment.

The GMC has in a way done a service for these people as they are now united in their fight for their health from Hypothyroidism. This is a fight owing to the fact that the majority of endocrinologists rely extremely on the blood guidelines to which a very large percentage of people don't appear to belong. This means very sick people are let down by the medical profession and the GMC in their intransigence.

This is in spite of the Chief Medical Officers advise that doctors "should not rely too heavily on blood tests for the recognition of Hypothyroidism, but to look at each individual patient's signs and symptoms" The majority of the medical profession appears to be blatantly ignoring this advice. WHY?

As you are aware Dr Skinner has a large following of grateful patients.

This is because if he goes, so does their health. Therefore the GMC have a duty of care to follow the guidelines of the Chief Medical Officer and to stop this seemingly never ending harassment.

Yours sincerely

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 22 May 2012 09:25
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr G Skinner - IOP number Es/C1-462487326 URGENT

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 May 2012 14:05
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr G Skinner - IOP number Es/C1-462487326 URGENT

Dear Mrs Summerfield,

I am sending this e-mail in support of the work of Doctor G Skinner IOP number ES/C1-462487326.

Although I am not a patient of Doctor Skinner I am aware of many many people whose lives has been turned around by his care and support as a practitioner of Thyroid medicine. I have hypothyroid illness and know how debilitating it has been to me and that there is much research and evidence available to show that T4 medication is not always enough to allieviate the many symptoms associated with this condition.

Please add this e-mail to the others that I know you have received in support of Dr Skinners work in helping his patients regain their lives back.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

Re: IOP case number ES/C1-462487326, 24 May 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

I suspect I'm probably too late to send this in time for Dr. Skinner's latest GMC hearing, but I just feel I must do something. I would have written before now but I have been unwell.

I haven't seen Dr. Skinner, although I have been planning to ask my GP for a referral. I am another of the many people who is convinced they have thyroid problems but who cannot seem to get any diagnosis or treatment. I have numerous hypothyroid symptoms, [REDACTED] and have been told by several doctors and consultants that I am likely to become hypothyroid 'in the future'. But because my TSH and FT4 levels are just within the so called 'normal ranges', I remain extremely unwell and untreated, while my life, my health, my relationship and my career suffer enormously.

I have read widely around the subject, and simply do not understand the reluctance of the medical profession to address the issues that surround the treatment of thyroid problems. I am convinced that in a few years time the whole outlook within the UK will have changed, and Dr. Skinner's current approach will be entirely accepted and mainstream. I do not understand why the medical profession in the UK cannot take a long look at the evidence and reconsider the guidelines and the rationale behind treatment.

I have read so many people's experiences of having had their lives turned around following successful thyroid treatment from Dr. Skinner. I am hoping to be one of them. I am just very saddened (and extremely concerned) that one of the few members of the medical profession who seems able to understand the hypothyroid condition, the suffering it causes and its successful treatment, should be continually hounded like this. The fact that Dr. Skinner exists gives hope to me, and presumably to many others.

I wish I had more time and a properly functioning brain so could have written a better and more erudite letter, but I just wanted to send something in support of Dr. Skinner.

Yours sincerely

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 22 May 2012 09:25
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: GORDON SKINNER case number ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

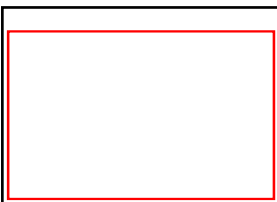
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 May 2012 14:30
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: GORDON SKINNER case number ES/C1-462487326

Dear GMC,

I am writing in support of Gordon Skinner. I have been his patient for [REDACTED] and it would be an understatement to say that he has really turned my life around. I have suffered from ill health for the last [REDACTED] years and have been variously misdiagnosed as suffering from [REDACTED], etc,etc. Since seeing Dr Skinner and starting on the correct medication I have slowly but surely improved my health and now have a much better quality of life.

Dr Skinner has always managed my condition with great sensitivity and introduced me to thyroxine in an organized manner having due regard for the results of Bloods *and* clinical observations. As a patient I feel this is a much better method of treatment than sole reliance on TSH blood results. Some doctors just look at the TSH result and don't actually listen to the patient i.e they are not treating in an holistic fashion.

I am just an ordinary patient who is very glad to have found someone like Dr Gordon Skinner. I urge you to stop persecuting this honourable man and to do the 'right' thing from a moral and ethical perspective.



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

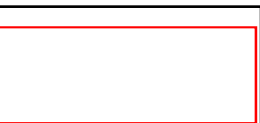
From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 22 May 2012 09:26
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 May 2012 16:57
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr Skinner

Case number for Dr Skinner's hearing ES/C1-462487326.



21st May 2012

I consulted Dr Skinner in [REDACTED] as I had a catalogue of symptoms that I felt sure were linked to hypothyroidism and not the [REDACTED] I had been diagnosed with. [REDACTED]

He prescribed thyroxine and wrote to my then GP in [REDACTED] who agreed to follow his suggestions. I rapidly improved and soon returned to work. The only time I have felt the symptoms return were when a GP I registered with when I moved house thought he new better and would not give me a sufficient dose of thyroxine. I now have a new GP and endocrinologist and I am on the dose of thyroxine that Dr Skinner told me to try and I have never felt better. My TSH is at the bottom of the 'range' and I have no symptoms of overdose at all.

I am sure that without Dr Skinner I would be chronically sick and probably still claiming incapacity benefit with no real hope of improvement. He made me well and I will always be grateful to him for this.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 22 May 2012 09:26
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW:

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 May 2012 19:35
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject:

IOP Panel
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Sreet
Manchester M3 3AW

Case No ES/C1-462487326

In [REDACTED] I became increasingly concerned regarding my wife's health and was relieved when her GP indicated that she had an underactive thyroid.

She was given T4 tablets and initially there was a significant improvement in her general health. In [REDACTED] her health deteriorated once again and in [REDACTED] of that year she was diagnosed with [REDACTED]. She was immediately placed on a high dose of Steroids which initially brought relief from the pain.

I remained concerned that my wife was a shadow of her former self and when she discovered that she was not alone in finding good health difficult to maintain.


with the treatment she was receiving from her GP I supported her in her visit to Dr Gordon Skinner in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

When he prescribed T3, which her GP willingly agree to prescribe, her general health improved very significantly. I have always found that Dr Skinners discussions with my wife are very detailed and thorough and that he has always been willing to listen to my Wife and myself regarding my wife's symptoms. He always studied the blood test results which my wife had had taken by her GP.

I do feel that to say to my wife that because the test result for T4 and TSH are in the range it is not necessary to test the T3 levels is rather narrow minded.

I regard Dr Skinner as a very caring capable Doctor and reassuring to my wife. His suggestion of taking T3 has greatly improved my wife's quality of life.

Yours sincerely



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 22 May 2012 09:26
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 May 2012 00:46
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

Hello.

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!
He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.
You must let him continue to do his job.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

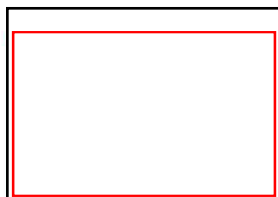
From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:39
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Gordon R B Skinner MD (Hons) DSc FRCPath FRCOG

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 May 2012 16:05
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr Gordon R B Skinner MD (Hons) DSc FRCPath FRCOG

Dear Sirs



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

-

Living with Hypothyroidism

Dear Sirs

I have suffered greatly from [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I saw my GP and he was shocked at how low my thyroxine levels were. I was put on thyroxine and it seemed to help initially. However, I was always returning to my GP get my dose increased.

[REDACTED]

In desperation I starting researching my condition and came across Dr Gordon Skinner. I made an initial appointment and discussed my situation and my symptoms comprehensively. At the time I was on [REDACTED] mgms of thyroxine. He advised me to increase my dose incrementally to [REDACTED] mcgms. My next appointment with him is the beginning of [REDACTED]

Not much has changed for me. I am hoping when I return, armed with my tests, that Dr Skinner will put me on pig thyroid. I believe I have a conversion problem.

Incidentally, a mother, whose child attends the same school as my daughter, was chatting to me and we were discussing our thyroid issues when it transpired that she too has consulted Dr Skinner and is now benefitting from pig thyroid. She says her life has changed dramatically for the better - [REDACTED]

Her name is [redacted] and I know that she, and her husband, have written to you supporting Dr Skinner and emphasising how his intervention has improved their quality of family life.

My mother, my twin sister and my younger sister are all on thyroxine and it works for them. [redacted]

[redacted]
Dr Skinner, and all the testimonials I have read and received personally, are my only hope. I do pray that 'patient power' will prevail and Dr Skinner can continue helping people like me who have lived with poor health for a significant number of years.

I've been written off by conventional medical practitioners as having to live my life this way. Every day is a struggle -

[redacted]
I trust you will heed the hundreds of people who have had the good fortune to meet, and the ability to pay, Dr Skinner for his remarkable work.

Regards

[redacted]

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○

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:43
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr G Skinner. Case No ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2012 11:58
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr G Skinner. Case No ES/C1-462487326

Dear Mrs Summerfield

I am writing this email in support of Dr Gordon Skinner.

This is a brave, knowledgeable and humane man who has risked his reputation, his licence and his livelihood many times in order to care for his patients and really listen to them in a way that is very rare in these days of computerised and restrictive medicine.

Today's rule of 10 minute surgery appointments, and GPs who either cannot or will not do more than the absolute minimum for their patients and often dismiss those who feel very ill to carry on with a quality of life which is quite unacceptable - merely because of their unwillingness to listen, learn or concede that the patient has any feelings or any right to say how they are treated - is unfortunately the rule rather than the exception.

I do of course realise that NHS funds are limited, and so is the time of GPs, despite their very large salaries.

However, most of us writing in support of Dr Skinner will not be asking for expensive procedures or hours of GP time, merely to be treated as intelligent informed adults, who desperately want to get well, and who need at least a modicum of co-operation from our doctors, for them to take an interest in our treatment, for them to allow US some say in what happens to us, and not to be condemned to a life of misery because of the outdated and entrenched protocol for treating Thyroid disease which most GPs flatly refuse either to question or deviate from in order to keep us well.

There is now so much indisputable evidence in the public domain - and not just on 'unscientific' forums run by sufferers - which proves that there is more than one way to treat Hypothyroidism, which at present relies on one basic blood test (TSH) and synthetic T4 only treatment, and leaves

many either untreated and feeling very ill, or treated solely with synthetic T4 and still feeling very ill.

How can this be right? Why should we be left to live what could be productive lives in illness and misery?

I belong to an online Thyroid support group (If I mention the dreaded word 'on-line' to my GP he scoffs as though I were some kind of idiot). Why do GPs not realise that in these days of global communication, patients will now be better informed about their condition? Most of us ARE able to differentiate between genuinely helpful information and quackery. The days when GPs were 'Gods' has passed, yet with a few exceptions they refuse to move with the times - at a great cost to our health and well being.

I have seen thyroid sufferers write over and over again that **'Dr Skinner saved my life'**.

Thyroid disease in itself might not be literally life threatening, but it has an impact on every aspect of a person's life if not treated optimally, and as we all know, plays a part in many degenerative diseases in later life. So those who say this are not exaggerating.

The way in which practitioners such as Dr Skinner are hounded and villified by those who should be at his feet begging for his knowledge and emulating his caring and open minded attitude, is nothing short of disgraceful.

I don't know if the problem is professional jealousy, a fear of losing revenue that prescribing solely synthetic T4 brings, or a genuine belief that Dr Skinner is wrong and is doing his patients harm. (Which would actually be laughable if it were not tragic).

I doubt very much if it can be the latter, as he is quite obviously NOT doing harm, and is providing a deeply humane service to which a great many people living in dire misery because of the neglect or disinterest of the medical establishment are able to turn for constructive and informative help which REALLY WORKS.

Do the words **'DR Skinner saved my life'** not mean anything?

If none of the arguments set out above hold any sway, another point is that we as patients are consumers, we pay in part for our health treatment through our National Insurance contributions. As consumers, do we not have the right to CHOOSE to consult whomever we wish when our GPs let us down? And believe it or not, they do. Why should we be restricted to either minimum treatment, no treatment or at worse, the wrong treatment?

And should that choice not be far reaching, not merely restricted to consulting other GPs and/or endocrinologists who are just as entrenched in outdated and fixated protocols for treating thyroid disease? Very few of us can afford to seek help in Harley Street.

For many of us, Dr Skinner is our last hope after years of ill health, lives wasted in misery, careers and relationships lost, and being cavalierly dismissed by GPs as 'depressed', 'overweight and lazy' or 'mentally ill'.

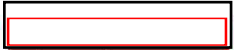
Please leave him alone so that he can carry on helping us to regain our lives and become productive members of society once more. Please do not waste further public money on this campaign of unfair vilification - money which could be better spent in educating the medical profession on better and more effective ways of treating thyroid disease and in teaching GPs how

to listen to their patients rather than treating them as if they were nothing but idiots, to be dismissed from the surgery as quickly as possible with a prescription for synthetic T4 and anti-depressants, whether they work or not.

Dr Skinner is helping patients to regain their health, sometimes after years of illness and misery. He wants nothing but good for his patients, **and is saving lives**. We need him, and more people like him.

Please remember this.

Yours sincerely



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:42
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP hearing

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 May 2012 21:51
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: IOP hearing

Dear Elisa Summerfield,

Ref ES/C1-462487326

My aunt has been a patient of Dr Skinner since [REDACTED]. I am aware that without the treatment she received from this doctor, no further medical help would have been forthcoming. Dr Skinner diagnosed hypothyroidism, in place of [REDACTED] from which the NHS endocrinologists said she was suffering.

I understand that my aunt was given thyroxin, as she had all the signs and symptoms of an underactive thyroid. This medication has put her life back on track, after a decade of ill health that led her to desperation. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This doctor needs the support of the GMC to make sure harassment from numerous other medical sources is stopped, and to enable him to continue treating successfully his thousands of patients.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:44
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: DR GORDON SKINNER - IOP ON 24 MAY 2012 ES/CI-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2012 14:45
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: DR GORDON SKINNER - IOP ON 24 MAY 2012 ES/CI-462487326

Attention of Mrs Elisa Summerfield
GMC
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

Dear Mrs Summerfield

DR GORDON SKINNER

I am writing as a previous patient of Dr Gordon Skinner to give him my full support at the Interim Order Panel on 24th May.

I had [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and never recovered via the current NHS system.

I was told that all I needed was Synthetic T4 and I would be fine as my blood tests were in range. I was told this by both my GP and various Endocrinologists.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I was then diagnosed with [REDACTED] and led a miserable life for a further [REDACTED] years as I was told that there was no cure!

Nobody within the NHS system that I saw knew how to treat me.

I then met with Dr Gordon Skinner and he told me that he suspected that I was still hypothyroid and that I needed to further investigate my thyroid condition (or lack of one!).

After years of enduring this awful illness I moved to a Natural Dessicated Thyroid and then later to a T3 regime and I immediately saw the benefits and was able to live a much better quality of life.

It is my belief that neither my GP or Endocrinologist know enough about thyroid disease and therefore had I never have met Dr Skinner I would have still been lying in my bed unable to walk! (My own GP tells me regularly that I know more about thyroid disease than she!)

I have since discovered that the NHS do not know how to treat thyroid patients and as a result many continue to suffer an extremely poor quality of life. This is unacceptable.

I believe that some of these NHS 'thyroid specialist' could learn a great deal from Dr Gordon Skinner on how to treat their patients.

I 100% support Dr Skinner and will continue to do so for myself and all the other thyroid sufferers that the NHS have failed.

Yours sincerely

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:42
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Gordon Skinner - case number ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 May 2012 15:15
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr Gordon Skinner - case number ES/C1-462487326

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to write in support of Dr Gordon Skinner.
I feel amazed that yet again Dr Skinner is asked to appear in front of the GMC. I believe this now amounts to hounding and victimisation.

Dr Skinner is a REAL doctor. He treats the patient by taking a full history and takes the time to really LISTEN to them. He considers the whole patient and all of their symptoms. He does not rely solely on blood tests with proven inaccuracies, nor does he insist that the only possible treatment for Hypothyroidism is Levothyroxine.

I believe that this is the real reason for this constant hounding and I believe that the GMC should take action to prevent it continuing, otherwise I feel disgruntled GPs and Endos will continue this victimisation right up to the day he finally retires!

I am a member of Thyroid Patient Advocacy and Thyroid UK. Together they represent many thousands of patients with Thyroid issues. Praise for Dr Skinner, his methods, his advice, his care and his manner is posted daily.

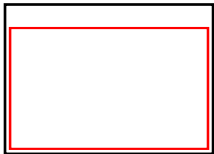
This is in very sharp contrast to the thousands of posts about GPs & Endos, who won't listen, are patronising, dismissive, assume that their patients have no brain at all and then say, 'Your TSH is "NORMAL" so any other symptoms are nothing to do with your Thyroid!' There is plenty of research to demonstrate that this is far from accurate, but this is ignored, especially if quoted by a patient - after all, who do they think they are, thinking they can learn about an illness!

I for one, have totally had enough of those attitudes and have lost all faith in the ability of the NHS to effectively treat my condition. I am now trying to get a referral to see Dr Skinner, but because of this case my GP is hesitant to agree. I will persevere and I WILL get to see Dr Skinner. I have total confidence that he will work WITH me to maximise my health and well being and minimise the effects of Hashimoto's Hypothyroidism.

Instead of allowing this unwarranted victimisation to continue, the GMC should require all Endos to attend seminars by Dr Skinner so he can educate them about the sensible way to treat patients with thyroid conditions. In addition his book, Diagnosis and Management of Hypothyroidism, should be mandatory reading for all GPs - together with a good people skills course!

While my previous paragraph is tongue in cheek, (well mostly anyway,) I ask that you take this letter as full support for a courageous, caring and effective Doctor and see that the case brought against Dr Skinner is unfair and without real foundation.

Your sincerely,



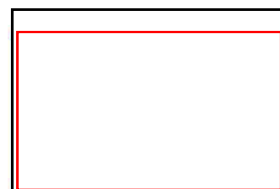
Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:41
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 May 2012 19:59
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr Skinner ES/C1-462487326



17th May 2012

Dear Mrs Summerfield,

I am a patient of Dr Skinners'. He is the first doctor to listen to me since I became ill. His care and knowledge have brought about a remarkable improvement in my condition. I will be eternally grateful that he is prepared to stand up for people like me who are dismissed by our GP's and told we are depressed and lazy. He is an extraordinary individual and should be praised and held up as a beacon of good practice

As I am sure you are aware, the current Declaration of Geneva states that

- I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity
- The health of my patient will be my **first** consideration

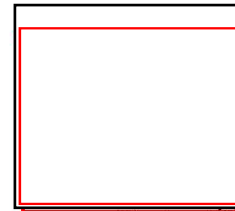
In my opinion as a patient, Dr Gordon Skinner fulfils these promises, something that the current policy adopted by so many of medicating hypothyroidism by numbers as opposed to symptoms fails to.

Yours Sincerely

[redacted]



00777656



13 May 2012

IOP Panel,
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield,
General Medical Council,
3 Hardman Street,
Manchester M3 3AW

IOP Ref: ES/C1-462487326.

General Medical Council	
Original was a Photocopy	
Original was Poor Quality	
Date rec for scan	21 MAY 2012
Original has been Photocopied to improve Scan Quality	
Document held physical objects ref:	

Dear Mrs Summerfield,

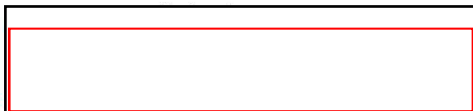
I request that you cancel the unnecessary and unjustified IOP hearing scheduled for 24th May 2012 for Dr GRB Skinner and leave Dr GRB Skinner in peace to continue to diagnose and treat additional patients and restore their health and lives.

Many patients have benefitted from Dr Skinner's skill as a medical practitioner, at the GMC's review hearing, with reference to Dr Skinner, the GMC Panel stated, "there is no evidence of patient harm nor evidence of any misconduct or deficient professional performance."

I know that Dr Skinner is a brilliant doctor and I speak from personal experience as he rescued my twin sister and I from the severe and debilitating symptoms that had resulted from our under treated hypothyroidism (as a result of NHS doctors decreasing our thyroxine treatment on the basis of our TSH results). Dr Skinner evaluated us carefully and patiently, asking questions and carrying out a clinical examination. Furthermore, NHS experts were forced to admit that we did require the treatment and dose of Natural Desiccated Thyroid treatment e.g. Armour Thyroid that Dr Skinner prescribed for us thus endorsing Dr Skinner's diagnosis and treatment.

I would be most grateful for confirmation of receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:45
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Case No. ES/C1- 462487326 - Dr. G.R.B. Skinner MD

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2012 21:12
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Case No. ES/C1- 462487326 - Dr. G.R.B. Skinner MD

Interim Orders Panel,

c/o Mrs. Elisa Summerfield,

General Medical Council,

3 Hardman Street,

Manchester,

M3 3AW.

2012

20th May

Subject: Case No. ES/C1- 462487326
G.R.B. Skinner MD (Hons), DSc, FRCPath, FRCOG,

[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Summerfield,

I understand that Dr. G.R.B. Skinner has been ordered to appear at an IOP hearing on 24th May 2012.

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 IOP panellists to read and consider most carefully:

• I spent almost [redacted] years [redacted]. In my last year there after a thorough examination which included a thyroid scan I was diagnosed as hypothyroid and told that I would require lifelong treatment. In my case test results did confirm my symptoms, but [redacted] GP's do also have the clinical freedom to treat hypothyroidism just on the basis of the symptoms presented if they consider this will clearly benefit the patient. Why is a clinical freedom enjoyed by [redacted] GP's denied to their British colleagues?

• In [redacted] I returned to England permanently and sought to have my thyroid treatment continued by an NHS GP. This GP refused to continue the thyroxine treatment started in [redacted] without an NHS blood test. This GP knew full well that at the time this NHS blood test was carried out I was still taking thyroxine prescribed in Germany. Naturally , this TFT showed my thyroid values to be "normal", and further treatment was therefore refused. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

• 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 maliciously disregarding a serious medical condition previously diagnosed abroad. Had I felt less unwell at the time, I would certainly have reported both of them to the GMC as clearly unfit to practise.

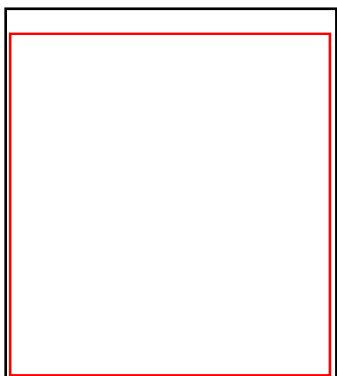
• By contrast, Dr. Skinner's exemplary treatment of my thyroid condition since [redacted] has restored me to good health.

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 blind adherence of the NHS to a thyroid function test which is clearly unfit for purpose.

If the IOP 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 faithfully,





For the Urgent Attention of:
Mrs Elisa Summerfield,
IOP Panel,
GMC,
3 Hardman Street,
Manchester,
M3 3AW

General Medical Council	
Original was a Photocopy	
Original was Poor Quality	
Date rec for scan	21 MAY 2012
Original has been Photocopied to improve Scan Quality	
Document has physical objects ref	

Dear Mrs Summerfield

Reference: Dr Gordon Skinner [ES/CI-462487326]

It is with absolute astonishment that I hear that Dr Skinner (who is an excellent doctor) is yet again to be called to another IOP on the 24th of May 2012.

The outcomes of all previous hearings including the last review hearing during November 2011 concluded that Dr Skinner has not harmed patients with his treatments for hypothyroidism. In fact as a result of some two thousand patient and other testimonials in his favour together with the facts and scientific research presented to the Review Panel, the panel quite rightly determined that, *"there is no evidence of patient harm nor evidence of any misconduct or deficient professional performance."* The panel also stated that, *"The Panel cannot fail to take notice of the fact that your approach to treatment, whereby both clinical and biochemical parameters are assessed falls within the guidelines of 'Good Medical Practice' In this respect your assessment of patients does not differ from Dr Akintewe. The difference in approach lies in the weight given to the respective clinical and biochemical findings"*

Furthermore during the most recent IOP hearing on 22/2/12, the panel stated: *"However, on the basis that there has been no demonstrable harm to any of the five patients, and on the basis of the Fitness to Practice determination, the Panel is not satisfied that Dr Skinner may pose a real risk to patients and therefore it is not necessary for the protection of the public, in the public interest or in Dr Skinner's own interests to make an order in accordance with Section 41A of the Medical Act 1983 as amended."*

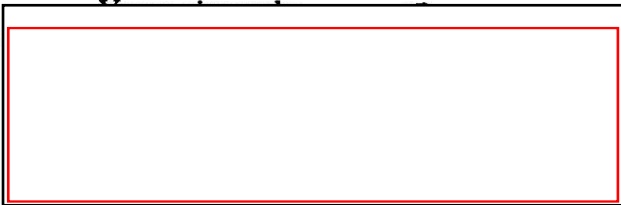
When these determinations were made, hypothyroid patients everywhere in the UK were overjoyed because the GMC Panel was confirming what such patients and their families already knew, that Dr Skinner's careful and considered methods work and such methods have served his patients well. I speak from personal experience as Dr Skinner treated both my daughters for hypothyroidism and has returned them both to wellness.

The GMC must take note of the thousands of testimonials that have been received in favour of Dr Skinner and must listen to the hundreds of his patients who have turned up in person to support him throughout these hearings.

Many such patients had previously been failed by others they had consulted with and continue to be dependent on Dr Skinner for their on-going treatment.

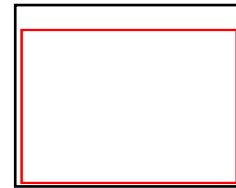
It is not the job of the GMC to decide which treatment suits a patient, this is ultimately the role of the practitioner who sees the patient and ideally works with the patient to secure the optimum treatment for that individual. As is evident from these hearings, Dr Skinner does this in consultation with both his patients and the patient's GP. Indeed he is the most caring, compassionate and meticulous doctor I have ever encountered. He listens to what his patients have to say, treats them as intelligent human beings and is never patronising, he is without doubt, a credit to the medical profession.

I re-iterate that in Dr Skinner's review hearing on 17/11/11, the panel concluded that "*there is no evidence of patient harm nor evidence of any misconduct or deficient professional performance.*" I would be grateful for your comments in acknowledgement to this letter and for confirmation that its contents will be made known to the IOP panel and put to the IOP panel in support of Dr Skinner.





IOP Panel
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW.



16th May 2012

Dear Madam,

Case number ES/C1-462487326

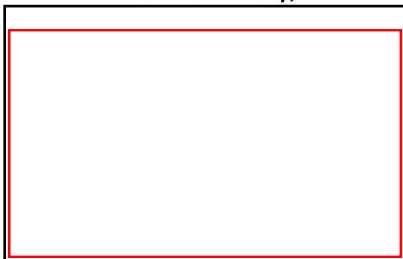
I write to you in support of Dr. Skinner in respect of the above case.

I must take this opportunity to again register my disgust at the ongoing treatment of Dr. Skinner. It does appear as if his "professional" colleagues are determined to continue this witch-hunt against Dr. Skinner. At best, this ongoing campaign distracts him from his sterling work supporting and treating the patients the rest of the medical professional treats as outcasts, and at worst, I genuinely fear he will be driven out of the profession.

Whilst Dr. Skinner is still saving lives and treating his patients based on their symptoms, endocrinology continues abusing patients by not treating them properly, not listening to them, and still it seems with no knowledge of how to effectively treat thyroid disease. I would suggest that their motives and not that of Dr. Skinner should be closely examined. I would go as far as to say it seems they maybe the people with the problem, and may I even suggest God complex! It appears in their own minds that they cannot be wrong, and indeed have a piece of paper with a number on it to tell them so, therefore they must be right.

I would appeal to the panel to consider the health and rights of the patients involved and once again exonerate Dr. Skinner. Please do not be party to the ongoing abuse of patients and this obvious campaign to discredit Dr. Skinner.

Yours faithfully,



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Original has been Photocopied to improve Scan Quality	
Document has physical objects on	

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:43
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner May 24th Hearing - Letter of Support - Case No ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 May 2012 23:42
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr Skinner May 24th Hearing - Letter of Support - Case No ES/C1-462487326

Dear Sir/Madam

Having been undiagnosed from hypothyroidism from more than one GP for over [REDACTED] years [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I researched by symptoms and insisted on a thyroid test. Guess what – I was hypothyroid!

I was given [REDACTED]mg of thyroxine and still my symptoms continued.

[redacted] I was being treated in a cursory way but hypothyroid symptoms continued which were ignored by every GP in my practice.

Luckily I did my research and insisted on being referred to Dr. Skinner, after being given Choose and Book appointments to hospitals without anyone with a particular interest or specialism in hypothyroidism, which would be a complete waste of my time and theirs.

When I was referred to Dr. Skinner I had extreme symptoms of hypothyroid which were simply due to under-treatment and lack of understanding of the condition. This was causing intermittent high blood pressure as my body did not have sufficient thyroxine to work effectively. Dr. Skinner explained I was not taking enough thyroxine and increased my dose gradually.

[redacted]

Dr. Skinner's interventions have transformed my health and well being because he looked at signs and symptoms as well as blood results something that numerous GP's had come nowhere near doing, causing me to be continually ill for most of my [redacted]'s and [redacted]'s.

Rather than being vilified, Dr. Skinner's expertise in hypothyroidism should be disseminated throughout general practice as this would save the NHS a considerable amount of money by treating the core condition rather than the outcomes of failure to treat the core condition. The outcomes of failure to treat the core condition are many fold, extremely costly and inherently un-resolvable as the treatment offered will totally fail to sort out what is really wrong and will continue unresolved - probably with the patient being told they are imagining things and being labelled as neurotic or a hypochondriac! [redacted]

[redacted]

From my own personal experience GP's do not know enough about this condition and many women are suffering un-necessarily – and probably being labelled as unstable, stressed and given anti-depressants to boot!

I applaud Dr. Skinner's skill and expertise which has regained my health and wellbeing.

Can you please advise me if I have a case against the doctors who have persistently failed me by their lack of knowledge and expertise in this subject and led me to suffer needlessly.

Yours sincerely



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General Medical Council

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for scan

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Scan Quality

Amount paid physical objects ret

16 MAY 2012

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL
3 HARDMAN STREET
MANCHESTER M3 3AW

FAO MRS ELISA SUMMERFIELD in re INTERIM ORDERS PANEL ES/C1-462487326
DR G R B SKINNER

Dear Sirs,

I am greatly distressed to learn that this registrant is now summoned to attend yet another IOP hearing, on 24 MAY 2012.

It is my belief that Dr. Skinner's experience in the care of hypothyroid patients whose cases have needed referral from their GPs for additional assistance is by now quite unrivalled in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, I cannot envisage that any consultant endocrinologist could be better informed in the subject matter of the difficult, widely neglected and poorly taught area of medicine in which Dr. Skinner now specialises. Of my own knowledge, the high standard of immensely careful, painstaking and patient treatment which he delivers to those referred to him is exemplary.

Whilst recognising that the GMC is constitutionally obliged to pay appropriate attention to any complaint, I fear that the sudden emergence of a plurality of complaints against an excellent doctor, whose practice has been maintained satisfactorily under GMC supervision for a long time, smacks of an orchestrated conspiracy to harass and discredit him. I hope that you will take cognisance of the likelihood of such a 'hate campaign', paying particular attention to the recorded remarks of a prior proposed (and withdrawn) GMC witness which were of overtly vindictive nature.

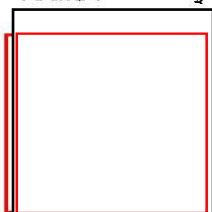
I beg to ask - without reference to any particular case

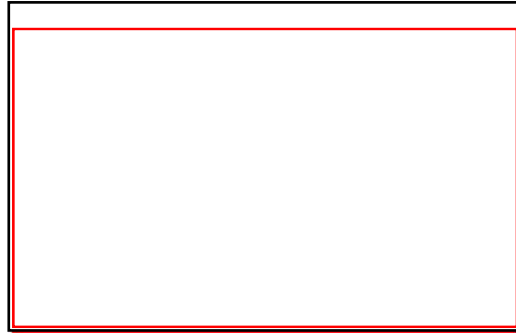
- What machinery, if any, has the GMC in place to detect concerted malicious attacks upon a registrant by way of serial complaints?

- Given that patient care, especially in a small practice, is likely to be disrupted by the need to respond to GMC summonses, and that patients may be caused distress and anxiety in any case by GMC proceedings, what policies has the GMC in place to ensure that such harm to patients arising from its investigations is kept to a minimum?

I hope that you will find it easy to respond without the need for a formal FoI request, and look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,





19th May 2012

Case number ES/C1-462487326

Dear Sir; Madam

I visited Doctor Skinner yesterday for my first consultation with him and I cannot tell you what a difference it has made to me. I have not been well-treated by healthcare professionals of late, and Doctor Skinner has given me back a measure of confidence in the system by treating me as a whole person, listening to what I have to say, and giving me some valuable advice about my health.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] In [Redacted], my then GP Doctor [Redacted] referred me to Doctor Skinner for a second opinion about my thyroid condition. In the middle of, what is for me, a very important issue concerning my health, [Redacted]

[Redacted]

I am currently not registered with a medical practice, and I feel I've been abandoned by my medical practice when I am most in need of support.

When I went to see Doctor Skinner [Redacted] I was feeling very disheartened about doctors in general, and the way that I have been treated. My health has been in a steady decline since being given some very unhelpful recommendations by a consultant at the [Redacted] hospital in [Redacted].

I've been on Levothyroxine for [Redacted] years, and I was additionally prescribed T3 [Redacted] years ago. I was in relatively good health until the Endocrinologist at the [Redacted] started reducing my thyroxine. He wouldn't listen to anything I had to say and insisted that I had had a transient hypothyroid incident [Redacted] years ago and that my GP should wean me off of my thyroid medication. He wrote a letter to that effect, and as I completely disagree with this, I had no alternative but to seek a second opinion. This Endocrinologist did not believe me when I told him how severe my symptoms were when I also stopped taking T3 at his recommendation.

Between [redacted] and [redacted], when I had my last appointment with him, he did not once see any of my medical records, so he knew nothing about my medical history - he based his opinion purely and simply upon my TSH results. He was rude and unkind, and I hope that I never have the misfortune to see him again.

At a time when so many healthcare professionals are not listening to their patients, and the lab results of a patients chemistry have become the most important consideration; to meet someone like Doctor Skinner is indeed a breath of fresh air. This doctor studied my medical history, carried out a thorough assessment, and then understood what is going on with me. What a relief! I cannot even begin to explain how important this is! I felt understood, and held by his care, something that I have not experienced in a long time. I also know that he is helping me to regain my health. Isn't this what a doctor is supposed to be doing?

From my point of view, I wish that there were more doctors like Doctor Skinner. I wish that his practice was closer to me than [redacted] and I wish for him to be able to continue to practice and to help many more patients, some of whom will have lost all faith in the medical system.

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:39
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

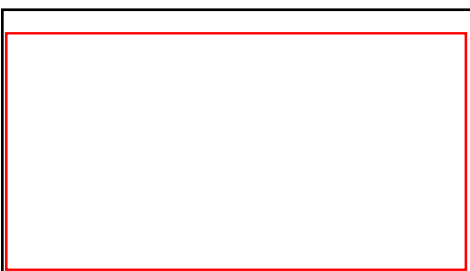
Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 May 2012 12:38
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: "IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner"

The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!

He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.



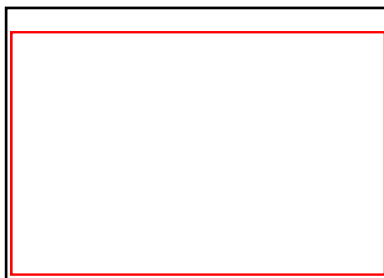
Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:44
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr G R B Skinner. Case no. ES/CI-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2012 15:39
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr G R B Skinner. Case no. ES/CI-462487326



20th May 2012

IOP Panel,
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield,
General Medical Council,
3, Hardman Street,
Manchester. M3 3AW

RE:- DR G R B SKINNER CASE NO. ES/CI-462487326

I am writing this testimonial in support of Dr Skinner for use in the forthcoming IOP on 24th May 2012.

Dr Skinner has been my Dr & has been treating me since [REDACTED] when I presented to him as a patient in very poor health with a long standing history of illness & consequently a sub standard of life.

Prior to seeing Dr Skinner & over the course of [REDACTED] years preceding [REDACTED], with the exception of an Endocrinologist I had consulted with most disciplines within the NHS. It wasn't until [REDACTED] I eventually did get to see a Professor in Endocrinology & was diagnosed as Hypothyroid & began treatment. It took [REDACTED] years to reach doses of [REDACTED]mcg of Thyroxine in combination with [REDACTED]mcg of Liothyronine daily. In effect I was under treated & very little better than I had been in [REDACTED] & still remained terribly symptomatic with poor quality of life & still reliant upon my husband even to the extent of personal care.

The NHS had their chance & failed me miserably & so I sought help from Dr Skinner. Now, [] months on I am well even contemplating the thought of work again for the first time in [] years! As far as I am concerned, far from constantly hounding & harassing Dr Skinner to the extent the GMC have been over the years it would be more appropriate to actually recognize the effect his extensive knowledge & expert care have done for thousands of patients, all let down terribly by an institution originally established to do the same.

In November 2011 Dr Skinner was completely exonerated from any wrongdoing & more recently at the IOP in February 2012 the panel stated:

"However on the basis that there has been no demonstrable harm & on the basis of the FTP determination the panel is not satisfied that Dr Skinner may pose a real risk to patients & therefore it is not necessary for the protection of the public, in the public interest or in Dr Skinner's interest to make an order in accordance with Sec. 41A of the medical act 1983 as amended. In reaching it's decision the panel has considered it's functions & powers & has determined that the information before it today is insufficient to indicate that Dr Skinner's fitness to practise may be impaired & that he may pose a real risk to either patients or the public interest".

Yet a few months later Dr Skinner is once again being hauled up to justify his practise! What amounts to blatant harassment has to stop!

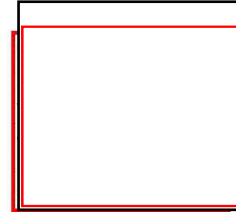
Finally, Dr Skinner is caring, kind, respectful & a cautious professional who is as devoted to his patients as they are to him & always just a phone call away. I have never felt endangered at all by his treatment/advice & nor have I or my GP ever felt the need to question his opinions or recommendations.

Yours Sincerely,

[]



00774567



IOP Panel,
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield,
General Medical Council,
3 Hardman Street,
Manchester
M3 3AW.

Date: 12th May 2012
Case No: ES/C1-462487326 (24th May 2012)

Dear Madam,

This letter is written in support of Dr Skinner with respect to the subject case number above.

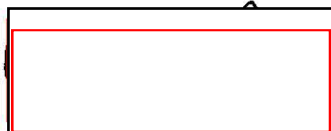
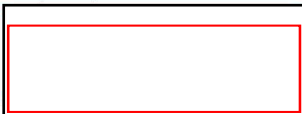
We are distressed to learn that Dr Skinner has yet again to appear before IOP Panel. We write having first hand knowledge and experience of Dr Skinner's practice with respect to Hypothyroidism and we can categorically state that in all our dealings with Dr Skinner he has always behaved with the utmost propriety. What's more, he has always been scrupulously honest and forthright with us, particularly in respect to his position with the GMC. Clearly his procedures conform absolutely to those prescribed by the GMC to ensure that there is a paper trail for all his patients.

Dr Skinner provides a unique service to his patients and is almost alone in providing a haven for those unfortunate enough to suffer from the effects of Hypothyroidism. We speak with experience when asserting that without Dr Skinner's practice there would be nowhere for sufferers to turn if it was not for the service he so necessarily provides. We have had to endure years of suffering as a result of non and mis-diagnosis until at last finding the haven that is Dr Skinner's practice.

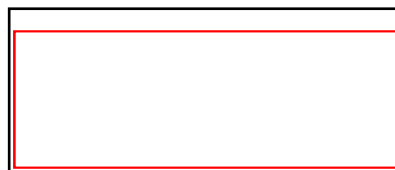
We have seen at first hand the care and dedication that Dr Skinner shows towards his patients, if only NHS GP's showed the same kind of care, attention and dedication when it comes to the well being of their patients! The loss of Dr Skinners practice would be an absolute catastrophe for his current patients but more importantly to those who are now suffering, but have yet to find a solution.

It seems to us that there is some kind of vendetta being perpetrated against Dr Skinner. Surely it is about time the GMC considered their position in respect to Dr Skinner generally and to ask themselves "is it necessary to continually repeat these hearings". What a waste!

Yours faithfully



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Document has physical objects ret	
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21st May 2012

IOP Panel,
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield,
General Medical Council,
3 Hardman Street,
Manchester
M3 3AW.

Emailing to: esummerfield@gmc-uk.org

Copy: Emailing to:

for Dr. Gordon R B Skinner MD, DSc, FRCOG, FRC Path

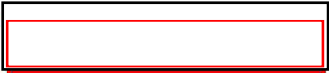
The case number for IOP on the 24th May is ES/C1-462487326

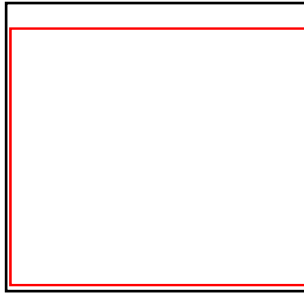
Dr. Gordon R B Skinner MD, DSc, FRCOG, FRC Path.

Dear IOP Panel, c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield at General Medical Council,

- * **Dr Skinner, Listened to me, he heard me, understood, helped and supported me.**
- * **Dr Skinner saw me as a person, a human being that counts, an individual.**
- * **Dr Skinner was and still is my sanctuary.**
- * **Dr Skinner was there when the NHS let me down.**
- * **Dr Skinner gave me back my life, part of the reasons' as follows .**
My own personal point of view as a patient, based on my own personal experiences'. The NHS pretended to listen; dismissed and rejected me and my voice and words, refused to help me, fobbed me off. Therefore, For years, I was ill, I was in an awful state. My health was deteriorating, I was deteriorating, my life was deteriorating, and my life has been terrible, horrible and awful, frustrating and distressing.
- * **GOD KNOWS the good Dr Skinner has done.**
- * **The GMC and NHS could learn from Dr Skinner.**
- * **Dr Skinner's insight, knowledge and wisdom is beneficial to patients, GMC AND NHS .**
- * **GMC and NHS could and should work with, and take heed from Dr Skinner's wisdom.**
- * **GMC and NHS should stop letting Thyroid Patients down.**
- * **I am very concerned because for me, Life without Dr Skinner will be scary when the only other option is NHS at the helm.**
- * **Thank you Dr Skinner for having courage and self belief.**
- * **Thank you Dr Skinner for being you and the person you are.**

Yours sincerely,





Sunday, 20th May 2012

case number ES/C1-462487326.

Attn :- esummerfield@gmc-uk.org

Dear Sir,

I am writing to support Dr Gordon Skinner who transformed my life having been greatly let down by the NHS and Bupa.

From [redacted] until [redacted], I experienced extreme tiredness which went undiagnosed by two different Doctor's practices. [redacted]

[redacted]

During the [redacted] years, my thyroid levels were tested by my local GPs and since the results fell in what the NHS deem to be the normal range, I was told that it was not a thyroid problem. I tried many alternative options to try and improve the quality of my life, all paid for by myself [redacted]

[redacted]

In [redacted], I went down the private route as my situation was becoming unbearable. Prior to the appointment, my blood test were redone and the referral letter from my GP commented that the tiredness as a symptom on its own stretching over [redacted] years is unlikely to be due to any significant underlying abnormality.

[redacted]

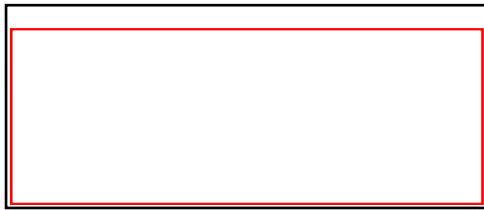
[redacted]

Since the NHS thought that my thyroid was fine, I researched which private consultant to be referred to and thought Dr Skinner to be the most suitable for my situation.

Following my consultation with Dr Skinner, I began treatment with Thyroxine and later with a combination of Thyroxine and Armour thyroid. Under Dr Skinner's supervision, the medication was adjusted until I became stable, my health and well being greatly improved.

I can only thank Dr Skinner for the care and treatment that I have received from him so that I can now lead a normal life. I do not know what I would have done had he not been there and I had to rely on the NHS who rely on outdated blood tests.

Your Sincerely,



Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:45
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr G Skinner ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2012 19:36
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr G Skinner ES/C1-462487326

I write as a patient of Dr Skinner's since [REDACTED] I sought a referral following over [REDACTED] years of suffering the symptoms of hypothyroidism, being initially tested as positive in [REDACTED], but untreated and told by a succession of GP's, that my blood test results were normal. Despite ongoing symptoms, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I find it difficult to express the level of gratitude I have for the treatment and kindness I have received from Dr Skinner. Needless to say, since commencing treatment, in particular NDT, I no longer experience the debilitating symptoms outlined above, which have had such a negative and life limiting effect throughout most of my adult life, and my health and quality of life has improved hugely as a direct result of the treatment I have received from Dr Skinner, however I am extremely disappointed by the lack of care or treatment afforded to me by the NHS and feel the GMC's attention would be better spent urgently reviewing the guidelines for both the diagnosis and treatment of hypothyroidism which is currently woefully inadequate. I am happy to provide any further information if required.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:41
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Gordon Robert Bruce Skinner - 24th May ES/C1-462487326.

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 May 2012 10:57
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336); Afshan at VRI
Subject: Dr Gordon Robert Bruce Skinner - 24th May ES/C1-462487326.

Dear Sir/Madam

[REDACTED]. Once again I support Dr Skinner, who has been a godsend to me and my daughter.

I cannot understand the constant appearances before the GMC when all he does is make people well by the way he was taught as a medical student. Patients go to Dr Skinner of their own free will.

He disagrees with the modern method of diagnosis re thyroid problems and I myself was undiagnosed until I had a TSH of [REDACTED] but became more unwell on the regime of levothyroxine alone.

So many people have symptoms/signs but remain untreated/undertreated due to the present guidelines and are unaware that there are alternatives which may help them recover but GP's cannot prescribe. It is not until you are finally (maybe never) diagnosed with hypothyroidism and that you are so unwell it is such a struggle to regain your health.

It was only through reading ThyroidUK and finding that there may be an alternative that I have after [REDACTED] years found the solution for me. I wish that other sufferers are able to have information that may enable them to find help for their situations and GP's free to prescribe alternatives.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:39
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: case number ES/C1-462487326.

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 May 2012 14:20
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336); [REDACTED]
Subject: case number ES/C1-462487326.

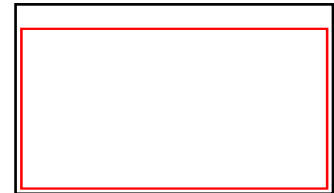
Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this letter in FULL support of Dr Gordon Skinner, whom has helped me regain my health & therefore has given me my life back. I have been Hypothyroid since [REDACTED] and was prescribed Levothyroxine which did not address my symptoms and I changed to Natural Thyroid Extract (Armour) and Liothyronine (T3) and after [REDACTED] months I felt & looked so much better and all my hypothyroid symptoms abated and ALL my blood tests where within range, as a result I no longer needed [REDACTED] which in turn must be saving the NHS money!

I cannot thank Dr Skinner enough for giving me my life back.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



11th May 2012

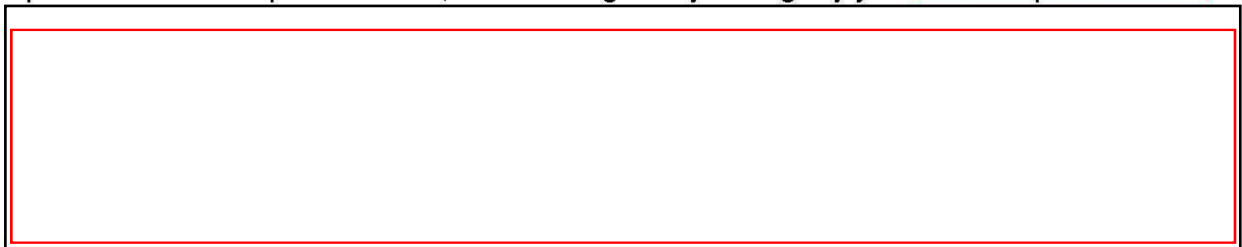
Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to support Dr Skinner.

I have always found Dr Skinner to be courteous and professional in all his dealings.

He is an excellent doctor who treats the patient from all the signs and symptoms of disease. He takes into account the full history of the patient, including blood tests for thyroid function tests, and then makes a full diagnosis.

My history is of a period of more than where I gradually became more and more unwell. Each individual symptom in the early stages may have been a minor symptom, but over the years have caused a great deal of problems in my professional and personal life, culminating in my losing my job



However, after Dr Skinner started to treat me, especially with him looking at all aspects of my condition, nearly all these symptoms have now abated.

I have now resumed my IT professional career at a more senior position, as I am now able again to work a full week in a demanding profession.

Dr Skinner's professionalism meant that he took into account all the diverse symptoms, and made a good diagnosis of my fundamental issue of hypothyroidism.

I see no reason why such a professional doctor should be subject to ongoing restrictions on his practice.

Please see following further details of my life and health.

Yours sincerely

Since taking thyroxine, my many and varied symptoms have generally improved. I have restarted reading, gained a new full time job, and am again enjoying my hobbies.

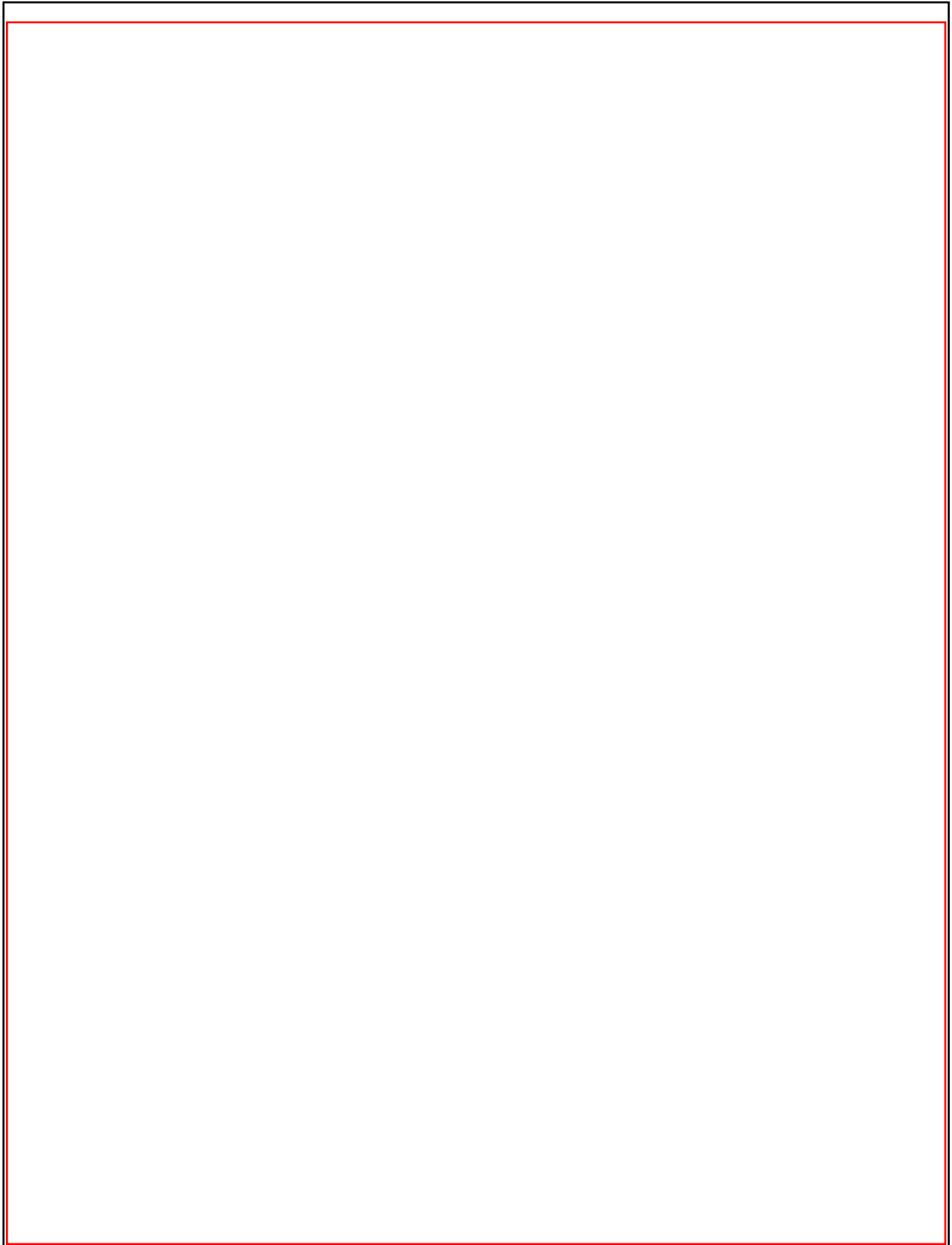
I was disappointed that my referrals to Endocrinologists resulted in no diagnosis at all, although I was struggling severely with grinding exhaustion and ill health.

I still have to pace myself, and intersperse a quiet day before and after any active times that are important for me or for my career.

With good treatment for my thyroid condition, I can now look forward to continuing my active lifestyle, with my career and hobbies.

I feel that the GP and Endocrinologists have failed to diagnose and treat my thyroid condition, prescribed unnecessary drugs at least 3 times, and wasted NHS funds by referrals to specialists for conditions that were in the end treated by treating the thyroid condition.









Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:43
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: GMC Ref: ES/C1462487326. Dr G Skinner IOP Date 24th May 2012

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2012 12:18
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: GMC Ref: ES/C1462487326. Dr G Skinner IOP Date 24th May 2012

>
> FAO: IPA Panel
> Date: 19th May 2012
> For GMC Ref: ES/C1462487326. Dr G Skinner IOP Date 24th May 2012
>
> Dear Mrs E Summerfield (IOP Panel)
> I am a new TPA member and I am in full support of Dr G Skinner who has helped a lot of patients back to full health, when all hope was lost. Medicine shouldn't be black and white you have to be able to think out side of the box and use your medical expertise and knowledge. So surely to God that is what good doctoring is all about making patients better when their thyroid problems have be undiagnosed for years & years causing more ill health and anguish .So I hole heartily support Dr G Skinner.
> your sincerely
> [REDACTED]
>
>
>
>



00774690

IOP Panel
C/O Mrs Elisa Summerfield
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AW

General Medical Council	
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15 May 2012

Dear Mrs Summerfield

RE: Dr Gordon Skinner IOP case no ES/CI-462487326 24 May 2012

I write in support of my medical colleague Dr Gordon Skinner. He has taught me very valuable lessons about the diagnosis and management of hypothyroidism

I have recently read every word of his excellent textbook 'Diagnosis and management of hypothyroidism' at the request of a family member suffering that condition. It opened my eyes to the complexity of this condition which, sadly, I had never fully appreciated. However my overwhelming impression on hearing that he was to appear before the GMC again was what a tragedy it would be for patients if such a caring and compassionate thyroid expert were no longer able to help patients. It is rare these days to find the combination of a dedicated and caring clinician and a pathologist with expert knowledge of the meaning of laboratory investigations willing to dedicate themselves to improving the lives of thyroid patients.

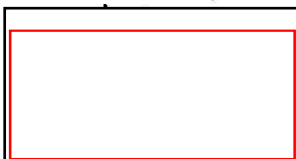
With around 3,000 NHS patients now seeking help from the forum of the Thyroid Patient Advocacy this in itself illustrates that the formal channels available to such patients are not providing all the answers to the complex situation they find themselves in with thyroid disease. By joining the forum I have become aware that patients are getting their lives back from the brink by availing themselves of the knowledge and wisdom imparted by Dr Skinner.

Dr Skinner makes clear in his book how careful he is in considering all the facts before treating. It is so refreshing to find a clinician like Dr Skinner who is diligent and expert in both clinical and laboratory fields of expertise. Unfortunately from my experience

clinicians often struggle to understand all the implications of a laboratory number in the context of a disease like hypothyroidism where clinical details are also relevant when arriving at a diagnosis. I am therefore encouraged by Dr Skinner's helpful and highly professional approach with patients and applaud his contribution to medical knowledge.

I therefore urge the GMC to take my remarks into consideration at the hearing and cease the campaign against him.

Yours sincerely



Cc Dr Skinner by email

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:44
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2012 15:09
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr Skinner ES/C1-462487326

Dear Madam, i have already emailed you in defence of Dr Skinner, who is my doctor, without whose help i would not have been able to carry on with my life.

I feel, as so many do, that the medical profession needs to sit up now and listen to the stories of patients, who often suffer for many years with hypothyroidism, before they are diagnosed. This is due to, it seems, a failure among many doctors to be aware of the symptoms of hypothyroidism or of the correct treatment.

STORY 1:

i had

symptoms of hypothyroidism from puberty, throughout my life and was finally thyroid tested at the age of [REDACTED] My symptoms were put down to many reasons, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I did not get better on thyroxine and Dr Skinner has helped me since [REDACTED], by prescribing Armour thyroid for me. I could not live without Armour. My GP apologised to me for the way I was not diagnosed with hypothyroidism, despite spending months under a gynaecologist.

I believe that suffering

hypothyroidism for so long has seriously undermined the quality of my life and caused me to underachieve. [REDACTED]

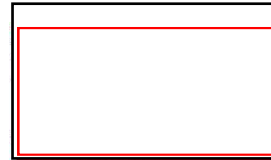
STORY 2:

My late father worked as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A couple of years later he was diagnosed as having 'Profound Hypothyroidism'. This must have been the cause of his personality change and i wonder why he was not thyroid tested when he developed tachycardia. He did not get better on thyroxine and literally on Dad's death bed, Dr Skinner (under my instruction) asked the hospital for a T3 test to be done. His T3 was on the baseline-he would never have got better. [REDACTED] This is just one family that has suffered so much from this debilitating disease.

Please, it is Dr Skinner who helps people like us. He is a

Godsend.



20th May 2012

THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL

TO WHO IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sirs,

Re: ES/C1-462487326.

I am in disbelief that yet again I feel I have to send a letter in support of Dr Skinner – what on earth is going on !

People are dying due to the lack of thyroid treatment and to think that the GMC are following this line against one of a handful of doctors who are genius in this disorder and its treatment - is disgraceful, in fact in my opinion - it could be deemed as harassment and I am sure that established bodies and institutions in time will draw the same conclusion.

The legacy that you will leave by continuing in this way will leave an indelible stain on the medical profession for many years to come - if you started to support innovative members of the medical profession who are attempting to find solutions for these problems, it would enhance and bring back much of the respect that has been lost for the medical profession in recent years.

I was so ill that I lost my career and almost my life – it took me years to get anyone to diagnose me – if it hadn't been for Drs like Dr Skinner then I would have died. Think of the money it is costing the NHS – people with undiagnosed thyroid disorders going back and forth to the NHS for real not imagined pain and suffering – all because their bodies are lacking the vital hormone they need to keep their body functioning.

I wonder how the present Government would react if they knew that so many people within the UK are in dire need of replacement hormone – whether that be thyroid hormone or those produced by other glands etc. and that the NHS is bearing the financial burden of this medical inadequacy.

The money being spent by successive Governments on disability payments – can - in my opinion - be attributed in large part - to the lack of up to date practice within the Endocrine field – there would appear to be a lack of acknowledgement within this field, of the latest research or indeed acknowledging work undertaken some 150 years ago, that still stands firm today - diabetes has ruled the roost for so many years and thyroid treatments are the poor relation and in some instances people are dying as a result .

Continued over to 2.....

/2.....

This lack of acknowledgement or moving forward with treatment protocols is to the detriment of the heart specialist, dermatology specialist, liver specialist, you name any part of the human body – a low functioning thyroid gland can and does cause symptoms that are leading to misdiagnosis by other specialities, on a grand scale – I would assume that these specialities are relying on their fellow medics within the Endocrine field, to inform them of any progress in relation to the treatment of thyroid dysfunction - readily available both in their archives and from new research coming to the fore in recent years – this is not happening and I wonder how these specialities would react if this information was made known to them.

Why, when the treatment of thyroid disorders, was to treat the symptoms way back as far as the 1850's – are the symptoms being totally ignored on the result of a flawed blood test.

It is my opinion that these rather ill informed medics who are complaining about Dr Skinner should address their complaints to their nearest Endocrine facility – and start reading up about this fascinating science as I have had to do for over years to work out for myself why I was so ill.

I am well now due to Dr Skinner and the like – I lost precious years of my life but.....at least I didn't lose my life entirely.

I am now back to work and a 'healthy' thyroid patient and I am sorry but anyone who argues that Dr. Skinner is wrong, needs to look elsewhere to apportion blame for the current state of affairs in thyroid treatment.

If this mis-management of thyroid disease continues I believe there will come a time, in the not too distant future where cases for malpractice will be sought – one would hope that this can be avoided - the GMC should realise that too many patients are complaining about this issue for them all to be wrong and to do something about this witch hunt against a Dr who has helped so many people LIVEand to bring to account the endocrine establishment who would appear – in my and many others opinion – to be criminally negligent in holding back the health of the nation in such a manner.

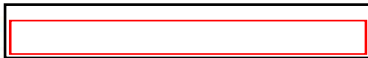
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3.....

I quote Dr. Louis Lasagna who penned this version of the Hippocratic Oath in 1964

"I will not be ashamed to say "I know not", nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery "

Yours faithfully,



c.c. The Office of the Prime Minister
Andrew Lansley – CBE
Secretary of State for Health

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:43
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Case No. ES/C1-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2012 07:45
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336); Afshan at VRI
Subject: Case No. ES/C1-462487326

Dear Mrs. Summerfield,

I hope that this letter of support for Dr. Skinner and his patients will be read and not just filed.

There is to be another hearing concerning Dr. Skinner's treatment of patients. The problem is NOT Dr. Skinner, it is other doctors' ignorance of the subject and subsequent maltreatment of patients.

I have first hand and long and tragic experience of undiagnosed and untreated hypothyroidism. My TSH was 'normal'. When I finally realized that low metabolism was the problem my T4 and T3 were 'normal' as well. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. The GP would not treat me, and I saw Dr. [REDACTED] who said that I was not converting the inactive T4 into T3. I felt much better as blood test showed both T3 and T4 were at optimum. At that point I tried to get taken on by a local endocrinologist, Prof [REDACTED]. He insisted that I was taking too much T3 and would have nothing to do with me. I still was not as well as I hoped, and taking advice I reduced T4 and increased T3. When I got to [REDACTED]mcg it was like a light came on in the mind, I could think again. Quite a bit of scientific work has been done on Thyroid Hormone Resistance and I can assure you it is very real. It is obvious that I must take enough T3 to provide adequately for my brain. Blood tests cannot show this, so GPs and endocrinologists look at the blood values and insist that I am hyperthyroid. In fact after [REDACTED] years I show no hyperthyroid signs or symptoms, there is a difference between what goes around in the blood and what is available within each cell.

Dr. [REDACTED] first alerted me to Dr. Skinner and his troubles and I started to go to the hearings. As you are aware a great number of people come to these hearings to support Dr. Skinner and I have met them all. Their stories are like my own, and where would they go if their doctor lost his licence? His fortitude in standing up for his patients and for good science is an inspiration.

I wonder about the GMC's 'expert witness'. Any endocrinologist who have followed research and know of conversion problems and thyroid hormone resistance would not agree to be a witness and you would be left with one of the many ignorant ones. I could list 3 endocrinologists who have done me harm, and most of Dr. Skinner's patients could give similar. It is quite common but has been left out of endocrinologists' curriculum. And we know that what doctors are not up on they are down on.

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]



00774996

IOP Panel
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield
General Medical Council
3 Hardman Street
Manchester M3 3AW

To Whom It May Concern:

re: Case number ES/C1-462487326

I am writing in support of Dr Skinner who has an Interim Order Panel hearing on 24 May, 2012. I am shocked and saddened that this conscientious, kind and skilful (not to mention hilarious) doctor is again facing investigation for what seem to be exactly the charges he's just been cleared of.

I would like to share my medical story, by way of illustrating how excellent Dr Skinner's treatment of me has been compared to that of others, and in order support Dr Skinner's defence.

I became ill at the age of [redacted]

[redacted] My TSH was tested at my parents' request as my symptoms matched those of hypothyroidism which almost all the women in my family in the generations before me have suffered with. The results were 'negative' and no further mention was made of thyroid by my GP or consultants. [redacted]

In [redacted] a scientist friend introduced me to the work of Dr Skinner and gave me a small parcel of scientific articles that related to thyroid disease and its treatment. I hid it under my bed as I couldn't face the thought that a 'real hope' might exist. Weeks later, I finally opened the package and read the papers enclosed. I was astonished – every single symptoms or collection of symptoms described as being caused by hypothyroidism matched my condition exactly. I couldn't understand how this had been so briskly ignored given the perfectness of the match of symptoms, on the basis of one blood test many years before.

16 May 2012

General Medical Council

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Original was Poor Quality

Date recd

18 MAY 2012

For [redacted]

It has been Photocopied to improve quality

It is not a physical object for [redacted]

At the end of [redacted] I saw Dr Skinner for the first time. He listened carefully, took a thorough medical and family history, went through all my symptoms in detail and examined carefully the blood tests my GP had provided at his request. He prescribed Armour in a small dose, going up in small steps, basing the decision to increase further on both blood tests and clinical presentation. Never had any doctor taken such a detailed interest in my health.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Throughout, I was monitored by Dr Skinner, he kept my GP informed of his actions and decisions. I started working full time in [redacted]

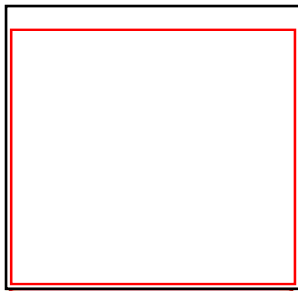
[redacted] My life opened out as never before. I decided to try and transfer from Armour to Thyroxine against Dr Skinner's advice, simply because I hoped my GP would be willing to prescribe the latter if Dr Skinner retired, and became so ill again that in 2 [redacted] lost the precious job I'd only had for [redacted] years. A return to dessicated thyroid sorted out the problem but not in time to save my nascent career. Since then I have undertaken various jobs, but my true pleasure has come from my family. [redacted]

If I were to contrast the care I've received elsewhere with that I've received from Dr Skinner I would highlight various things. During [redacted] years of severe and life-changing illness I was never asked for a full medical or family history as detailed as that taken by Dr Skinner. I was never given annual blood tests or checks (eg: blood pressure) as might be expected to be performed by a concerned physician on a young, puzzlingly sick patient. With Dr Skinner a careful medical examination (blood pressure, blood tests if necessary, examination of physical features and skin) takes place and is accompanied by close questioning of the patient to discover a change in symptoms or new problems. If he has a concern about a patient he gets more tests done or asks questions (he helped me with an unrelated bout of thrush, because I mentioned it at a thyroid check). My G.P.s and others have 'threatened' me with the supposed dangers of taking 'too much' thyroid (although my T4 and T3 readings have always been within range) and yet have never undertaken ANY tests for the bone thinning and heart problems they claim I'm likely to suffer from.

For all the reasons above, it puzzles me immensely that Dr Skinner is facing further investigation of his way of dealing with patients as he has given so much close attention to so many sick people, and has brought so many of them to full health again. I would like to be informed about the complaints procedure that the GMC runs and whether there is any possibility of Dr Skinner's patients complaining about the continued interference in his medical practice that he keeps facing.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]



18th May 2012

Dear Mrs Summerfield

Case: ES/C1-462487326

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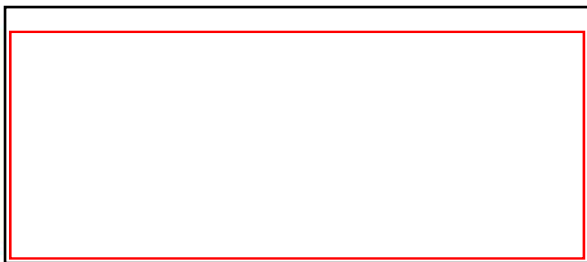
It has only just come to my attention, otherwise I would have written sooner, but I am writing in support of Dr Gordon Skinner and find it incredulous that once again he has been called to come before the GMC on the 24th May 2012.

From my experience I cannot speak highly enough of Dr Skinner, his professionalism and his vast clinical experience, which frankly saved my life.

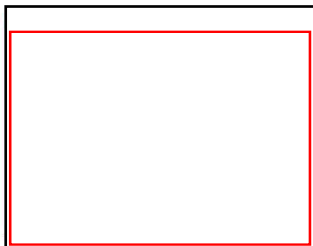
I enclose previous letters of support which explain my history.

Quite rightly in November last year Dr Skinner had all restrictions removed from his working practise and I sincerely hope that after this hearing he will again be allowed to practise unhindered.

Yours sincerely

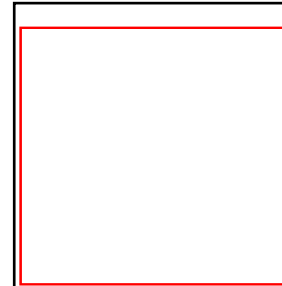


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00774568



14th May 2012

IOP Panel

c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield

GMC

3 Hardman Street

Manchester

M3 3AW

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Dear Mrs Summerfield

I am writing with regard to Dr Gordon Skinner, case No: ES/C1-462487326, he has to appear before an IOP on 24th May 2012.

I am a patient of Dr Skinners and have been extremely well cared for and treated by him for the last years. He diagnosed and treated my hypothyroidism when the mainstream doctors would only refer to my "normal" blood tests and declare me euthyroid. I was anything but "normal" as I had almost the full list of signs and symptoms of hypothyroidism and was very ill and was on the point of losing my job which I've had for the last years.

Dr Skinner has transformed my life and I cannot imagine having to go back to feeling the way I did for so many years. My mental health, which was extremely poor, has been cured and I

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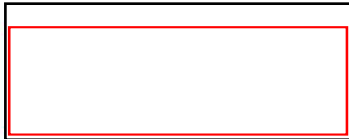
My physical health has improved also and I am able to carry on with my full time job, which again is very important to me, as I never wish to have to be on benefits, which I'm afraid was looking very likely until I saw Dr Skinner.

I have since learned through my own research that people can have a defective D102 gene which prevents people converting the inactive T4 hormone into the active T3 hormone but unfortunately this will never show up on a serum blood test and the person looks as though they have enough circulating in their blood stream but it isn't biologically available, so they remain severely hypothyroid at a cellular level.

This is only some of the research that I have found which shows the current diagnosing and treating of thyroid disease leaves a lot to be desired. It is extremely telling that the few doctors in this country who stand up against the perceived wisdom in this field find themselves up before hearings at the GMC and not just once but several times...it might befit them more to ask why so many people are turning to these doctors who actually listen to their patients and are willing to treat the whole person...not just look at blood test results and dismiss the clear suffering which is sitting in front of them.

I fully support Dr Skinner and if he is found "guilty" of these ludicrous accusations then I will have no alternative to look at the Human Rights Act and I shall seek their support in pursuing my right to good health.

Yours Sincerely

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

cc Dr Skinner

A rectangular box with a red border, used to redact the distribution list or recipient information.

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 22 May 2012 09:25
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: case ref ES/CI-462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 May 2012 12:34
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: case ref ES/CI-462487326

I am writing to you to express my support for Dr Skinner whose research and knowledge of thyroid illness has helped many people.

As the majority of patients who are hypothyroid are women I often wonder whether the lack of thyroid knowledge as evidenced by many GPs is a result of their attitude to so called womens problems. My own GP admitted that she didnt really know much about the thyroid and that most of the edocrinologists were diabetes experts not thyroid.

What a state of affairs, the 15/20% of hypothyroid patients who do not receive adequate treatment and medication on T4 only medication, continue to be chronically ill because GPs have forgotten how to listen and diagnose but would rather treat according to an inadequate blood test which does not give the full picture.

We need more doctors of the calibre of Dr Skinner and the GMC should take heed of all the thyroid patients who have benefitted from his guidance.

Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:46
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Interim Orders Panel for Dr GRB Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 May 2012 07:27
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Interim Orders Panel for Dr GRB Skinner

Dear Elisa Summerfield

Ref ES/C1-462487326

I have a very dear friend who has been a patient of Dr Skinner for a number of years since [REDACTED] and I am aware that without the treatment she received from this Doctor who diagnosed Hypothyroidism in place of [REDACTED] which the NHS Endocrinologists said that she was suffering from, where no further medical help was forthcoming.

I understand that she was given Thyroxin as she had all the signs and symptoms of an under active thyroid. This medication has put her life back on track after a decade of ill health that led her to desperation after she

[REDACTED]

This Doctor needs the support of the GMC to make sure the harassment from the numerous other medical sources is stopped to enable him to continue treating successfully his thousands of patients.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:43
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner (IOP ES/C1-462487326 24th of May 2012)

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 May 2012 17:02
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr Skinner (IOP ES/C1-462487326 24th of May 2012)

Dear member of the GMC,

I am today writing to express my disappointment to see that Dr Gordon Skinner is yet again being called to an IOP.

I have heard he only recently attended one earlier in the year and this is very shortly after all restrictions were lifted about his practice, after everyone decided he really was not a threat to any of his patients.

The thought of anyone thinking he 'may' be a threat upsets me.

Nice Guidelines are indeed very useful and provide a marker for the times when we are not so confident in making choices, or to help us make choices, but they are NOT the end of all! Neither any other guideline from whichever professional body.

A 'skilled' practitioner will read/research everything and take all guidelines/research/patient experience into account and this together with their experience will help him/her find the best way to help their patients.

I was immediately 'dissatisfied' with the care my own GP was providing me with my hypothyroidism (recently diagnosed) because unfortunately my GP is one of the majority of GPs out there: lacking

knowledge of anything which is not recommended by the NHS and lacking information, a GP too overworked to find the time to explore outside the usual restraints what can be beneficial for her patients, a GP who tries too hard to adhere to set deadlines/practice PCT guidelines and budget, a GP who has lost the ESSENTIAL skill of 'being WITH patient'. Yes, she practices 'safely' but in what respect? I could actually tell very differently as I was being left with inadequate thyroid treatment AND I am left with inadequate treatment in respect of other conditions I have, but 'it's ok' as she follows 'guidelines' so she is in no danger right? But what about my health? is it ok to go on 'just doing ok' in your life, should we settle for 'barely surviving'? NO, why should we when we can achieve our full potential?

I have done extensive research about hypothyroidism and found out that Dr Skinner is a doctor who is WITH patient, who will tailor the treatment according to each individual circumstances, a doctor who does not give up easily and will always work hard and not be satisfied until you are at your 'optimum' and living a much happier life. A Doctor whose FIRST PRIORITY are his patients! He is also extremely knowledgeable about hypothyroidism, up to date with research but most importantly of all adapting his approach to the patients NEEDS.

I have had the honour to see him for my first consultation back in . The level of attention he gave to me and my condition was beyond any level I have had in a whole lifetime of appointments with my GPs, he has put into action a plan to help my recovery and three months into being under his care I have improved a lot.

Dr Gordon Skinner is indeed very knowledgeable and has been helping people with thyroid conditions for years successfully, he is so famous I know of people abroad who are wishing they could be under his care.

He takes the safety of his patients very seriously and he is extremely professional, dedicating himself to his patients far beyond duty, he really 'does' make 'the difference' for all of us, his patients.

I am in total disbelief that there are some people out there who seem to just send in complaints to the GMC about him for no real good reason, I think you should concentrate your efforts on educating this people.

I am so upset about what is happening, I had to write to you to express my disappointment.

I hope the right thing will come out of this: Dr Skinner not to be recalled unless real evidence is there that harm has been caused (you will never get this I am sure!). Leave him to help us as NOBODY ELSE IS

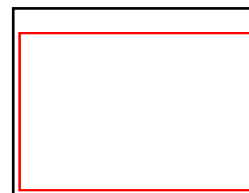
Many thanks for your kind attention.

Yours Sincerely

happy to be contacted if there is a need.



00777655



13 May 2012

IOP Panel,
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield,
General Medical Council,
3 Hardman Street,
Manchester M3 3AW

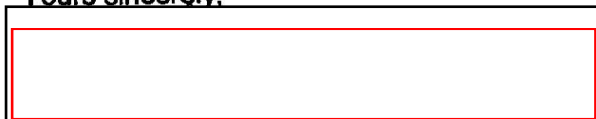
IOP Ref: ES/C1-462487326.

Dear Mrs Summerfield,

At the GMC 's review hearing, with reference to Dr Skinner, the GMC Panel stated, "there is no evidence of patient harm nor evidence of any misconduct or deficient professional performance." Therefore, I am appalled that Dr Skinner is to be called to yet another unjustified IOP hearing scheduled for 24th May 2012.

My wife and my sister-in-law were seriously ill as a result of undertreated hypothyroidism due to the over reliance on thyroid function tests within the NHS. Thankfully, on the basis of a careful clinical examination and meticulous history taking, Dr Skinner provided them with the correct thyroid treatment for their individual needs and enabled them to make a full recovery.

Yours sincerely,



Cc. Dr Skinner

General Medical Council	
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Date rec for scan	21 MAY 2012
Original has been Photocopied to improve Scan Quality	
Document had physical objects ref	

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:48
To: Fiona Ricketts
Cc: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: RE: Dr Gordon Skinner - ES/CI-462487326

Dear Ms Ricketts

Thank you for your email. The matters before the IOP are private, therefore I am not able to provide you with any information.

Yours sincerely

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 May 2012 10:47
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr Gordon Skinner - ES/CI-462487326

Dear Ms Summerfield,

I am very concerned to learn that Dr Gordon Skinner is to appear before the GMC on 24th May.

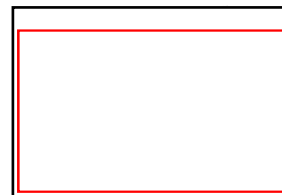
I plan to write in his defence, but before doing so would like to know on what grounds he has been called so I know how to react to such.

[REDACTED]



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13 May 2012

IOP Panel,
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield,
General Medical Council,
3 Hardman Street,
Manchester M3 3AW

IOP Ref: ES/C1-462487326.

Dear Mrs Summerfield,

Please find below my statement in support of Dr Skinner. Please could you confirm that these will be presented as evidence at the IOP hearing on 24 May 2012 in Manchester?

Statement by [redacted] in support of Dr Skinner

After the age of [redacted] my identical twin sister continued to grow and develop normally but my growth and development stopped. My other symptoms included [redacted]. [redacted] NHS GPs were unable to diagnose my condition.

Fortunately, at approximately [redacted] years of age, an outstanding National Health Service (NHS) paediatrician diagnosed me with hypothyroidism/ thyroid failure and told me that I would need to take thyroxine tablets on a daily basis for the rest of my life.

Luckily, I was able to catch up with my twin sister's growth and development. When my twin sister developed hypothyroidism/ thyroid failure at about [redacted] years of age, she was also diagnosed by the same paediatrician in due course and we were both prescribed [redacted] micrograms (mcg) of thyroxine daily. Thanks to the paediatrician and our thyroxine treatment, we were able to grow and develop normally.

When we were in our [redacted] we were both married and working and getting on with our lives. However, NHS doctors had concerns that our thyroxine dose was too high because our blood levels of thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) were below the reference range. We were told that our thyroxine dose would have to be lowered until our TSH levels were within the reference range. Monitoring of our TSH levels led to our original thyroxine dose being halved.

Shortly after the reduction in our thyroxine, we began to suffer the painful and debilitating symptoms of undertreated hypothyroidism. We both kept subjective records as we both kept a separate daily diary. We also kept objective records such as blood test results, temperature and pulse.

Despite the parallel severe deterioration in our health, it was not possible for our thyroxine treatment to be increased because our TSH blood test results were within the reference range. However, more blood tests were taken.

When our TSH levels in our blood had risen well above the reference range, we were told to partially increase our thyroxine dose. However, when our TSH levels re-appeared in the reference range, no further increase in our thyroxine dose was prescribed despite our ongoing severe symptoms of undertreated hypothyroidism. On [redacted] mcg of thyroxine daily, we continued to suffer [redacted]

[redacted]

The lowering of my thyroxine dose had led to debilitating symptoms of undertreated hypothyroidism, and was eventually followed by the loss of my marriage and home.

Thankfully, our General Practitioner (GP) referred us for a consultation with Dr Skinner. Dr Skinner was extremely thorough. Full medical histories were taken. Meticulous clinical assessments were carried out and our blood test results were studied in detail. Dr Skinner was very professional and carefully and gradually adjusted our thyroid treatments on an individual basis so that we were both put on the road to recovery. We were on thyroxine or T4, then thyroxine and tri-iodothyronine or T3, as we had difficulty converting the less active thyroxine to the more active tri-iodothyronine. [redacted]

[redacted]

Despite taking thyroxine since childhood, we had problems with thyroxine no longer being as effective as it had been. Our treatment was gradually changed to natural desiccated thyroid or Armour Thyroid. Thanks to Dr Skinner the health and wellbeing of both my twin sister and myself has been transformed for the better. Dr Skinner puts the health and wellbeing of the patient first. [redacted]

[redacted]

In our case, there was not a consistent correlation between our blood test results (including TSH) and our clinical symptoms. In addition, synthetic thyroxine was no longer suitable for us. There has been agreement between Dr Skinner and our NHS doctors/ endocrinologists. The functioning thyroid gland produces T4, T3, T2, T1, Armour Thyroid contains T4, T3, T2 and T1 and therefore provides a more complete thyroid hormone replacement.

[Redacted]

Our thyroid treatment is essential for our survival and we trust that Dr Skinner will not be prevented from providing ongoing care and life-saving treatments to patients such as ourselves by the GMC. If the GMC prevented Dr Skinner from continuing to provide life-saving medication, other doctors would also be discouraged from prescribing the same medication and patients could be deprived of the very treatment that they need for their survival. I request that all of the information in this letter be used as evidence in support of the treatment protocols used by Dr Skinner.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

c.c. Dr G R B Skinner/ [Redacted]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:40
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: Dr Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 May 2012 17:27
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Subject: Dr Skinner

I would like to join many others in my support for Dr Skinner. He has helped me enormously and greatly improved the quality of my life. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Fast forward [REDACTED] years and I was beginning to have the same symptoms and appearance as my mother did [REDACTED] and felt dreadful. I was told by y GP and an endocrinologist that my thyroid levels were normal. I accepted this initially but began to go downhill. In desperation I went to see Dr Skinner and he pronounced that I was indeed suffering from hypothyroidism and prescribed thyroxine. His questioning, listening and examination was more detailed than I'd ever received. Within [REDACTED] weeks I began to have much more energy, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] My husband is happy because I am now able to go out walking with him again without always feeling exhausted and [REDACTED] he is aware of the signs of over medication and has not noticed any at all.

I really believe that current NICE guidelines are serving patients poorly and that Dr Skinner's ideas and knowledge should be given more respect and this witch hunt stopped.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:42
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 May 2012 15:47
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: IOP Panel and the hearing of 24 of may 2012 with case number ES/C1-462487326, Dr Skinner

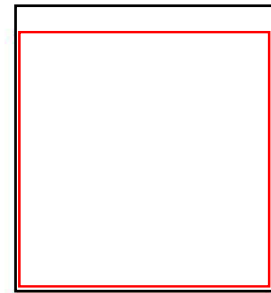
The work dr Gordon Skinner is doing for his patients must go on!

He is helping thousands of patients who do not get any help at all from other doctors. We no longer accept to stand without help, and without the right medication, so it is of overriding importance that he can go on with his work.

You must let him continue to do his job.

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]



16 May 2012

Ref ES/C1-462487326

Dear Elisa Summerfield

I have a friend who has been a patient of Dr Skinner since [Redacted]. I am aware that without the treatment she has received from this Doctor she would still be very ill indeed. Dr Skinner diagnosed Hypothyroidism in place [Redacted] which the NHS Endocrinologists decided she was suffering from, and where no further medical help was forthcoming.

I understand that she was given Thyroxin as she had all the signs and symptoms of an under active thyroid. This medication has put her life back on track after a decade of ill health that led to desperation. [Redacted]

This Doctor needs the support of the GMC, to ensure the harassment from the numerous other medical sources is stopped. This will enable him to continue treating his thousands of patients successfully.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

From: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Sent: 21 May 2012 10:45
To: Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)
Subject: FW: IOP - 24.05.12 - Dr Gordon Skinner: ES/C1 - 462487326

Elisa Summerfield
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336
Fax: 0161 923 6578
Email: ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 May 2012 22:56
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)
Cc: Afshan Ahmad
Subject: IOP - 24.05.12 - Dr Gordon Skinner: ES/C1 - 462487326

IOP Panel
C/O Mrs Elisa Summerfield
GMC
3 Hardman Street
Manchester M3 3AW

20 May 2012

Dictated to my daughter, [REDACTED]

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Dr Gordon Skinner - IOP - 24.05.12 - ES/C1 462487326

[REDACTED] I write in support of Dr Skinner who I believe is being pursued through professional jealousy; his hypothyroid patients recover their health where most others fail. That he is hounded the way he is leaves our family appalled, particularly since no effort appears to be made by the GMC to investigate the doctors repeatedly bringing charges against him. It is only too easy to make false accusations if you are not held publicly accountable.

In my day we felt the GMC was an honourable institution, there to protect patients, and that those called before them were genuinely at fault. This is not the case with Dr Skinner. The determination to be rid of him dishonours the GMC, leaving patients unprotected and fearful. We have just seen a gross miscarriage of justice in the criminal courts and that is exactly what this feels like. When will the real culprits in this matter face prosecution?

I have firsthand experience of Dr Skinner's thorough and excellent treatment of both my daughter, granddaughter and my grandson's girlfriend. Two were wrongly diagnosed [redacted] and rapidly restored to health by Dr Skinner, and the third the victim of misinterpreted blood tests - again a situation remedied speedily in Dr Skinner's hands. All had been failed by the medical profession at every level over a very long period of time. [redacted]

We are a Thyroid Family and have seen the dark side of medicine - as far too many like us continue to do. I too am hypothyroid and know only too well how long it takes to get treatment. We are indebted to the professional manner in which Dr Skinner treats his patients, quite unlike others in the profession. Dr Skinner is an utterly honest and reliable physician. His methods ensure the recovery of his patients and should be adopted by all doctors. In what is now clearly such a dubious area of medicine, his standards are traditional gold standards.

Thank goodness.

I call upon you, the GMC, to take active steps to halt the continual persecution of him.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

IOP Panel c/o Mrs. Elisa Summerfield
General Medical Council
3. Hardman Street,
Manchester
M3 3AW

May 20th. 2012

ES/C1-462487326.

re: Dr. Gordon Skinner, [redacted]

To whom it may concern:

I am very saddened to hear that Dr. Skinner has once again been called before the GMC.

This doctor has advised me for many years and has always treated me with unwavering kindness and respect. He has listened to me about my health, asked pertinent and relevant questions and acted on those that needed a response. He has kept my GP fully informed of my treatment and test results. His treatment for my blood test results which began my connection with him (over production of thyroid antibodies) has been sensitively and carefully applied. I have always been able to make contact with him either for an appointment in person or for a telephone conversation.

In [redacted] after moving to [redacted] my new GP took a medical history and at the same time a medical history of my family. [redacted]

[redacted] I was put on a nine monthly thyroid blood test check. [redacted]

[redacted] On returning to England many years later I asked for the blood check test to be continued and was laughed at by the then GP in [redacted] He told me I would know soon enough if there was something wrong. After a number of years my teenage daughter, [redacted] from whom you have also received a letter, became ill. Despite this long family history of thyroid problems, this possible diagnosis was barely considered and she was [redacted]

[redacted] She lost all her teenage years, her education from [redacted] plus etc. and no doctor seemed to be bothered about her. Many years later when she heard of Dr. Skinner and began to return to health I was told by the GP that she was purely experiencing a placebo effect. If this was a placebo effect then it was an exceptionally effective one as it returned her to full health, [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] As a parent I thank Dr. Skinner every day for all that he has done for her and for her family.

After some years I received a blood test result which showed that I had an over-production of thyroid antibodies. I immediately asked my then GP to refer me to Dr. Skinner which he did. Dr Skinner treated me courteously, kindly and with great understanding putting me on a slowly increasing dose of thyroxine. Within [redacted] months I was so much better [redacted]

[redacted]

I find it most extraordinary that in both my daughter's and my cases none of our GPs have at any time shown the slightest interest in how we have recovered. We have been threatened and they have tried to frighten us. [redacted]

[redacted]

Everyday I am thankful for this 'placebo effect' administered and overseen by Dr. Skinner which has given us both our lives back. I am deeply saddened on the behalf of all the other possible hypothyroid patients who will not be able to access this treatment owing to the unwillingness of their GPs to consider these treatment options.

Sadly it was obvious in my daughter's situation that when she visited doctors and consultants privately, who agreed with the diagnosis of Dr. Skinner, including one who thought her dose was too low, they all refused to treat her because of the effect it would have on their careers if they did.

I ask you to find ways in which independent research can take place into this condition **and which also includes the work of Dr. Skinner.**

I wish him well and will always be grateful to him for his help for our family.

[redacted]