

## Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 12:05  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: 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](mailto:ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 12:05  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR DR SKINNER

**FAO:** The IOP Panel [Mrs Elisa Summerfield],  
GMC, 3 Hardman Street, Manchester, M3 3AW

23 May 2012

Dear Mrs Summerfield

**Reference: Dr Gordon Skinner [ES/CI-462487326]**

Dr Gordon Skinner has been called to another IOP on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2012 and so I find myself writing to you yet again in support of this excellent doctor who has been subjected to the GMC, Fitness to Practise procedures over the last 8 years. Determinations of these FTPs include the following:

### **LAST DAY OF FTP, SUN 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007/ OUTCOME of the FTP**

The panel conceded that, *"It is clear that you are a caring and compassionate doctor whose overwhelming concern is the care and wellbeing of your patients, many of whom have pleaded that you should be allowed to continue to practise."* [FTP hearing, November 2007, Page D19/3, Paragraphs F, G and H of transcript] and, *"A large body of evidence has been submitted throughout this case demonstrating that many patients have benefitted from the medication that you have prescribed."* [FTP hearing, November 2007, Page D19/4, Paragraph A].

### **MON 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER to THURS 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2011 /OUTCOME of this FTP Review Hearing.**

Note the GMC expert witness [Dr Akintewe] had commented on the case notes of 662 of Dr Skinner's patients prior to the hearing. Please refer to Dr Akintewe's evidence and cross examination by the review panel within the transcript of that hearing dated Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2011, which highlights Dr Akintewe's own approach to the diagnosis of hypothyroidism which appears to be totally reliant on blood test results. However, quite rightly, the panel determined that with regard to Dr Skinner's diagnosis and treatment for hypothyroidism that, **"there is no evidence of patient harm nor evidence of any misconduct or deficient professional performance."**

### **IOP on WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2012/OUTCOME of this IOP**

The IOP panel concluded that: *"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."*

So not a shred of evidence of harm to his patients - quite the opposite – many thousands of patients have been helped back to health! In addition, Dr Skinner correctly treated both my daughters for hypothyroidism and returned them both to good health. Dr Skinner's treatment of them was subsequently endorsed by two eminent NHS endocrinologists including Professor [REDACTED] who is a [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The allegations and complaints made thus far against Dr Skinner have proved to be untrue and unfounded. Therefore the GMC needs to ask, are these complaints vexatious? The GMC does have guidelines relating to such situations:- [http://www.gmc-uk.org/Vexatious\\_Complaints\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.gmc-uk.org/Vexatious_Complaints_Guidance.pdf) 28487270.pdf and I quote,

*"The great majority of those who contact the GMC with complaints against a doctor do so because they genuinely either have concerns about his fitness to practise or are unhappy with some aspect of their treatment. 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.*

As a start in attempting to determine whether these complaints are vexatious in nature and whether there is a vendetta against Dr Skinner, then as part of your enquiries, you might wish to ask Professor Bouloux who are the 'us' and 'we' he is referring to in the transcript of the FTP Review hearing 29/7/2011, Page 1, where the transcript states, ***"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".***

**I now wish for your comments regarding the above and for confirmation that the whole of the content of this letter be brought before the new IOP panel on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2012 .**

Yours sincerely,



**Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)**

---

**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 09:48  
**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  
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-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 00:24  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** DR GORDON SKINNER

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE IOP PANEL C/O MRS ELISA SUMMERFIELD

REF : IOP 24 May 2012 - ES/C1 - 462487326

I write again as I understand that Dr Skinner is called before the IOP on 24 May. I have written many times before and at length but understand that these letters are not able to be used in this hearing.

Quite simply Dr Skinner saved my son's life. My son had the misfortune to be born into what we now know to be a family of 'hypothyroids'. At the age of [REDACTED] he deteriorated rapidly having suffered a lifetime of ills. The medical profession could only stand by and offer medication for the numerous symptoms [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] No-one really acknowledged his symptoms let alone searched for the cause.


Thankfully we eventually discovered Dr Skinner. Slowly but surely my son's health improved once Dr Skinner treated his underactive thyroid. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The truth is that he had NEVER truly felt well for the whole of his life prior to treatment.

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE GMC IS YET AGAIN WASTING TIME AND MONEY PURSUING A GOOD MAN WHO DOES THE VERY BEST FOR HIS PATIENTS. THIS FEELS LIKE A WITCH HUNT. PERHAPS THE GMC SHOULD INSTEAD BE INVESTIGATING THE DOCTORS WHO STOOD BY AND DID NOTHING WHEN FACED WITH A SERIOUSLY ILL CHILD!

Faithfully





## Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 09:49  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: Dr Gordon Skinner, hearing 24th of May

Elisa Summerfield  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336  
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Email: [ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org](mailto:ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org)

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

From: Penny Lane [redacted]  
Sent: 23 May 2012 09:21  
To: Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: Dr Gordon Skinner, hearing 24th of May

I understand that you are once more harassing this good doctor. Unlike all the other doctors I have seen so far about my unpleasant and debilitating symptoms, Dr Skinner actually listens to his patients and treats them so that they feel well again. Protests from under-treated and mistreated patients from around the world point to the drastic short-comings of the endocrinology specialism and the lack of knowledge of hypothyroidism by them and GPs, who, even if they know better, are too terrified to treat patients in any but the prescribed fashion. No wonder. Look at what is happening to poor Dr Skinner.

Primary hypothyroidism is the prototypical manifestation of a lowered metabolism. The disease is more complicated than the simplistic model on which current diagnosis and treatment is based. The blood test fails to detect the illness in many people, who then suffer ill health needlessly as do many patients whose treatment levels of hormone are kept within the so-called 'normal' range; both these test-related failures in diagnosis and treatment has led to a vast public health problem, far greater than that of type 2 diabetes, which can be ameliorated by lifestyle changes, unlike a lowered metabolism. How many intrusive and unnecessary investigations have been ordered because doctors refuse to recognise symptoms that are staring them in the face because the 'test' says that this patient has not got a lowered metabolism. Then there is the hormone itself, a pale imitation of the real thing. It was better to be hypothyroid in the 1950s and 1960s than now. You were treated because of your symptoms.

So leave Dr Skinner alone. Your attention should be directed to the inhumane treatment of suffering people by the endocrinology profession. Having a lowered metabolism and failing the supposedly infallible test is a little bit more than 'disappointment' at feeling 'below par' (the words of Anthony Toft, a senior endocrinologist). This illness devastates lives, ruins people's health, shortens their life and can eventually kill them if undiagnosed,. Shame on you.

[redacted]

As a patient of Dr Skinner I was appalled to hear that he is being called in front of the General Medical Council yet again.

I am a [ ]-year-old woman and I first became ill at the age of [ ]. I am sure you are aware of the long list of symptoms from which Dr Skinner's patients suffer before treatment, so I shall not go into the details of my illness as that would make for a very long letter. This illness, [ ], has taken [ ] years of what should have been a full and enjoyable youth that I can never get back.

I first visited Dr Skinner in [ ] and it is only since then and commencing the thyroid replacement therapy he prescribed, that my life has changed. The appointment itself was like nothing I had experienced before, Dr Skinner listened to me. He took a detailed history, discussed all my symptoms and examined me. Dr Skinner explained the ins and outs of treatment and that he was available if I had any questions or problems that arose before my next appointment.

Within weeks of starting to take levothyroxine I began to feel better. [ ]  
[ ] Although I have a long way to go in my recovery, my life is completely different to what it was [ ] months ago.

My thyroid function tests were at the low end of the normal range, and my symptoms corresponded to those associated with hypothyroidism. I feel there has been a failure by NHS Endocrinologists and Doctors to treat me appropriately, being more concerned with blood test results than my symptoms. My question is, why have I been put through so many years of unnecessary suffering and, why was Dr Skinner the first and only Doctor to help me? I cannot rely on appropriate treatment from the NHS and if Dr Skinner is suspended or struck off it is most likely that I will return to my previous state of health. The only way for me to continue along the road to recovery is to continue to see Dr Skinner and to take the thyroid medication he prescribes.

I dread to think what would have happened if I had not found Dr Skinner as I was left to languish by the NHS. I urge you not to suspend or invoke any restrictions on this compassionate and caring doctor. Time may be better spent addressing the unnecessary suffering of thousands of people in the U.K. caused by the role of blood tests, in the diagnosis and management of hypothyroidism.

Yours sincerely,

[ ]  
21/05/12

P.S. [ ] months ago I would have been unable to write this letter.

**Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)**

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 09:47  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: Dr G Skinner - ref: ES/C1 - 462487326

**Elisa Summerfield**  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 19:16  
**To:** IOP Team; Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Dr G Skinner - ref: ES/C1 - 462487326

To whom it may concern,

**RE: DR GORDON SKINNER MD, BSC FRCPath FRCOG - GMC HEARING**  
**Ref: C1 - 462487326**

I am writing to register my support for Dr Skinner in his GMC hearing.

In [REDACTED] aged [REDACTED] I became unwell, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I visited my GP who conducted blood tests, and I was informed that my thyroid result had come back "borderline" underactive. I was asked to come back in six weeks for another test, which I was told had come back "normal". I was [REDACTED] told that there was nothing doctors could do for me other than send me to a support group. My thyroid was not mentioned any more at that point, and no one informed me what the symptoms of having an underactive thyroid even were. [REDACTED] I struggled with various different GPs who "didn't believe in it" and thought it must all be "in my head".

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[redacted] the GP suggested I should have my thyroid tested. Although the results came back "normal" once again, this gave me the push I needed to look into what the symptoms of an underactive thyroid actually were. When I saw the list, I was amazed to see that I had the vast majority of symptoms mentioned. During my research, I came across Dr Skinner's name, and asked my GP to refer me to him, which she did. Together with my partner, we travelled [redacted] for my appointment, despite the fact that I was still incredibly weak.

Dr Skinner was the first doctor who actually listened to what I had to say. He gave me an examination, something other doctors had not done. He took my concerns seriously and did not talk down to me or make me feel intimidated. At the end of my first, hour long, appointment with Dr Skinner, he diagnosed me with an underactive thyroid. The next week, I started on medication. Since that appointment in [redacted], I have got my life back. [redacted] something I would never have had the energy to do before. I cannot thank Dr Skinner enough for all the help he has given me.

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted]



**Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)**

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 09:48  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: ES/C1-462487326

**Elisa Summerfield**  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council

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Fax: 0161 923 6578  
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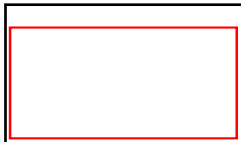
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 09:16  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Subject:** ES/C1-462487326

Sirs

My family has a history of thyroid disease, yet I would not be treated by the NHS as my results are in range despite debilitating symptoms. Luckily I can afford to travel abroad for treatment, others are not so lucky. The UK needs many more excellent doctors like Dr Skinner, doctors who treat their patients like people not like laboratory test results.  
Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]





17 May 2012

{GMC  
{BMC

A letter in support of DR G SKINNER

Dear Sirs

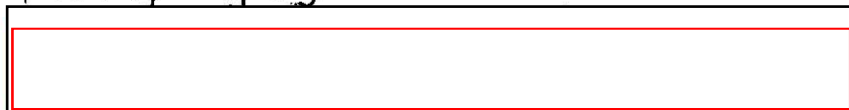
Have you read "Tears behind closed doors" by Diane Holmes? "She is a person who suffered for years from medical misdiagnosis until Dr Skinner correctly identified hypothyroidism, and successfully treated the condition."

How can doctors in training understand and treat thyroid conditions when "The Thyroid Gland etc" is no longer included in Medical School "Syllabus"? An under-performing thyroid gland may affect fertility.

Thousands of patients, myself included, are being successfully treated by Dr Skinner. What would happen to these people if Dr Skinner were no longer available to diagnose and prescribe? Would they have to travel to America where NAT (Armour, Erya etc) is freely available on prescription? Why are you yet again questioning this doctor's validity and worth.

It is my opinion that he should be treated as a national treasure and not a threat to humanity.

Yours faithfully



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Ms. Elisa Summerfield  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practice Directorate  
General Medical Council  
3 Hardman Street,  
Manchester M3 3AW

21<sup>st</sup> 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'd for scan	23 MAY 2012
Original has been Photocopied to improve Scan Quality	
Document had physical objects ref:	

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Case number C1-462487326 - Dr G.R.B. Skinner**

I am writing to you, once again, [redacted] in respect of the above case number.

Thyroid UK is both disappointed and surprised to hear about a further IOP in respect of Dr Skinner especially since there has recently been an FTP review hearing – November 2011 – where the panel recognised Dr Skinner's work, *"However 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'."*

At the review, the panel acknowledged more than 2,200 testimonials from patients, GPs, endocrinologists and other professionals. These testimonials show that patients visit Dr Skinner because they are very ill and have found no help from their NHS clinicians.

We realise that the GMC has an obligation to investigate these complaints but feel that if it is a complete waste of time and money (in respect of all concerned, including patients who attend the IOP).

The Panel felt, in the November hearing that, *"The safety measures and follow-up routine as described by you have allowed the Panel to feel confident that patient safety is not disregarded by you. On the contrary you have shown awareness of the risks of your prescribing and have sought to communicate this to patients."*

Thyroid UK is concerned that these complaints are actually vexatious and that there seems to be a determination amongst some NHS clinicians to stop Dr Skinner from

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practicing. You can see from this quote from the last FTP review that this is the case, *"The Panel has also noted a letter from Dr Skinner to Professor A, dated 24 June 2011. In that letter, Dr Skinner requested an explanation of an allegation that he, Professor A, 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** [embolded by TUK] the run around for years but we've got him at last'. The Panel has further noted Professor A's written response, dated 27 June 2011, to Dr Skinner's request for an explanation."*

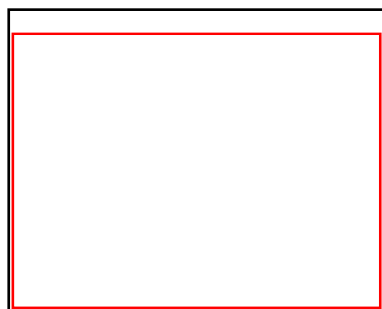
It seems to Thyroid UK that these clinicians are not concerned very much about the patients who, in fact, are becoming well again and able to return to work and be active members of society once again.

In respect of hypothyroidism, there are now many research papers showing that subclinical hypothyroidism causes many conditions especially heart disease.

In America and other European countries, patients are being treated if their TSH rises above 2.5 or 3.0 whereas in the UK many clinicians will not treat patients until they actually have more than twice the level of the actual blood test range i.e. the TSH blood test range is 0.5 – 5.0 but the British Thyroid Association et al dvocate no treatment until the patient's TSH reaches 10.0.

Thyroid UK hopes that the Panel of this IOP will look objectively at all this evidence before making any decision in regard to Dr Skinner's treatment of patients.

Kind regards,





## Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 09:48  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: Dr Gordon Skinner

**Elisa Summerfield**  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council

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Email: [ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org](mailto:ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 20:53  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Subject:** Dr Gordon Skinner

To whom it may concern

I am writing to support Dr Skinner for tomorrow's IOP (24<sup>th</sup> May 2012)

I have been suffering with hypothyroidism for the past [REDACTED] years, I have been seeing my GP in [REDACTED] for the duration, my suffering has been so bad [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

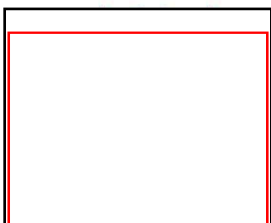
After trying various treatment recommended by doctor [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and despite my change in lifestyle, [REDACTED] I still wasn't getting better. At this point I talked through with my doctor about going to see Dr Skinner and in [REDACTED] I had my 1<sup>st</sup> appointment. [REDACTED] months later after Dr Skinner has put me onto higher dose of levothyroxine and introduced a small dose of liothyronine I am happy to say that [REDACTED] all of my many hypothyroid symptoms have disappeared.

I would like to add that I am thrilled with my treatment from Dr Skinner and feel that I would still be in the same situation as I was [REDACTED] if I had not have been under his care. I just wish more doctors were like Dr Skinner!

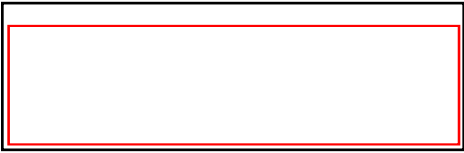
I thank you in advance for taking the time to read this email

Kind regards  
Sarah

Kind Regards







## Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 09:48  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: - IOP ES/C1-462487326

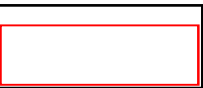
**Elisa Summerfield**  
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 20:24  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re:- IOP ES/C1-462487326

Road,



8rn.  
IOP Panel,  
c/o Mrs E.Somerville,  
General Medical Council,  
3,Hardman Street,  
Manchester M3 3AW.

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

I am writing this in support of Dr.Skinner.I have recently been diagnosed by himself as having Hypothyroidism and currently undergoing treatment with Thyroxine under his very professional,competent care.

For many years I have suffered under the NHS and failed to get the diagnosis and treatment I required.I was treated solely as a set of blood test results and the Doctors involved failed to see me and my symptoms through their rose tinted TSH glasses.I was initially not even examined by my GP so no baseline observations or symptoms were ever documented in my records.After being referred to an Endocrinologist who indeed examined me ,she focused on my TSH results which due to thyroid antibodies were fluctuating and did not ever give an indication to how I felt as an individual.She deemed me "normal" and sent me away [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was to therefore lead a miserable existence until the TSH test dictated otherwise.[REDACTED] I was appalled at the lack of care and knowledge of these Doctors.Indeed I would have been unable to work if I hadn't found Dr Skinner.

I joined Thyroid UK and soon found that many Hypothyroid patients are failing to be diagnosed or indeed medicated properly once diagnosed. I learnt a lot from this site and indeed from reading Dr Skinner's book. I was able to correct my many malabsorption issues which Doctors failed to even know were linked.

I then sought a 2nd opinion from Dr Skinner in [redacted] He spent over an hour listening to me and did a full examination. I am now being treated for this horrible disease which my body had been telling me for years, but thanks to the blood tests being the diagnostic tool, NHS Doctors failed me. Slowly, under the care of this knowledgeable man I will get my life back and keep my job.

I am disgusted [redacted] that many GPs and Endocrinologists are currently so ignorant and uneducated re:- thyroid diagnosis and management. The reliance of the TSH testing is allowing many patients to suffer needlessly. Current practice is bordering on neglect.

Dr Skinner is a compassionate Doctor who has dedicated many years in helping sufferers like myself to regain their lives where the NHS Doctors have failed. He diagnoses and prescribes based on Patient's individual needs. To lose a Doctor of this caliber would be a huge loss to Thyroid sufferers and many of us would end up back where we started with no help or support.

I feel strongly that the GMC should concentrate on the education of NHS Doctors in the diagnosis and treatment in Thyroid disease. Patients are supposed to come first and be listened to as we are not a set of blood tests. Our bodies tell us so much so why are we not being listened to?.

Please allow Dr Skinner to continue in his great work and maybe the medical profession may sit up and learn something from him.

Yours Faithfully,

[redacted]

[redacted]

**Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)**

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 15:54  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: docktor Gordon Skinner

**Elisa Summerfield**  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 11:59  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** docktor 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 al from the others docktors. We not longer accept to stand whitout help, and whitoutthe right medication so it is of overriding importance that that he can go on whith hiswork.  
You must let him continue to do his jobb

[REDACTED]

## Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 09:45  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: Dr Gordon Skinner - ES/CI-462487326

**Elisa Summerfield**  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council

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Email: [ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org](mailto:ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 16:20  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Dr Gordon Skinner - ES/CI-462487326

Dear Ms Summerfield,

Although I appreciate that matters before the IOP are private, it would have been helpful to have some idea as to why Dr Skinner has been asked to appear before the GMC IOP on 24 May.

I can only reiterate what I have said many times before, that thanks to Dr Skinner's approach to thyroid disease, he helped me out of a situation in my hypothyroid state that the endocrinologist I was referred to did not know how to address.

The GMC has, on two occasions, found Dr Skinner Fit to Practice. On the both occasions I witnessed the Panel consider his case carefully, and it was gratifying to see how they appreciated the way in which he treated his patients and, indeed, adhered to all the conditions the GMC put before him.

It therefore amazes me that yet again you have called Dr Skinner before you. I hope the Panel is advised as to the incompetence of the 'Expert Witness' brought before them at the last FTP. That this doctor refuses, on principle, to see patients whose blood test results are 'within normal limits' despite showing obvious symptoms of thyroid disease, shocked all those present. This flies in the face of the advice given by Professor Grasbeck and Professor Saris when they introduced the reference values in 1969 as a back-up to the diagnosis by doctors of thyroid disease.

I [REDACTED] would ask you to share this email with the Panel as it is important they know that Dr Skinner is alone in treating patients with thyroid problems by treating their symptoms before paying heed to their blood test results as a back-up. GPs I have seen since developing thyroid problems have been impressed with Dr Skinner's success in treating me correctly, but are afraid of voicing their opinion publicly because of the hold that endocrinologists have over thyroid disease.

Whatever accusations have been made in this case, surely Dr Skinner, by treating thousands of patients successfully, and having been seen to do so by 2 Fitness to Practice Panels, should as I suspect, be spared the humiliation of being the target of endocrinologists who lack the common sense and medical expertise to



cure patients as does Dr Skinner which is, surely, what every doctor who has signed the hypocratic oath, is deemed to do.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

---

From: [ElisaS@gmc-uk.org](mailto:ElisaS@gmc-uk.org)

To: [Redacted]

CC: [RMorris2@gmc-uk.org](mailto:RMorris2@gmc-uk.org)

Subject: RE: Dr Gordon Skinner - ES/CI-462487326

Date: Mon, 21 May 2012 09:47:43 +0000

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](mailto: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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General Medical Council

3 Hardman Street, Manchester, M3 3AW

Regents Place, 350 Euston Road, London, NW1 3JN

The Tun, 4 Jacksons Entry, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AE

Regus House, Falcon Drive, Cardiff Bay, CF10 4RU

9th Floor, Bedford House, 16-22 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7FD

The GMC is a charity registered in England and Wales (1089278) and Scotland (SC037750)

**Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)**

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 09:49  
**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](mailto:ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 09:21  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Subject:** ES/C1-462487326

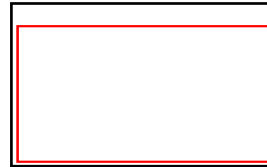
Sirs,

[REDACTED] I have had a private test done to determine my thyroid status, if my TSH starts to rise and I develop thyroid symptoms then I would want to be treated by a doctor like Dr Skinner. What I require from a doctor is someone who listens to me and takes note of my symptoms, someone who does not hide behind guidelines and reference ranges. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

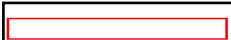



22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012


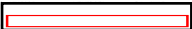

To whom it may concern,

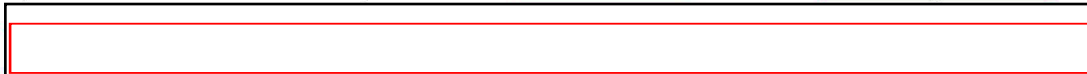
**Dr Gordon Skinner**  
**IOP Hearing 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012 Case Nr ES/C1- 462487326**

I wish to write in support of Dr Skinner.

After many years of illness, my son's partner  was referred to Dr Skinner by her GP.

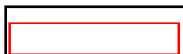
Dr Skinner diagnosed and cured her, and for the past  years she has been able to work full time, has been active in all aspects and is now able to enjoy a full and normal life.

Her GP  who consistently misdiagnosed her, missing clinical symptoms completely, should be retrained in clinical procedures. Over the years her incredible diagnoses of  illness, 



I have not met Dr Skinner in person but, should I ever have the privilege of doing so, I shall thank him deeply for the wonderful work he has done.

Yours faithfully,



## Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 15:55  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: Dr Gordon Skinner - Case N o: 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](mailto:ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 12:08  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Dr Gordon Skinner - Case N o: ES/C1-462487326

To Whom it may concern.

As a member of the Thyroid Patient Advocacy, I am aware of Dr Skinner and his work but have not consulted him personally.

My letter in support of Dr Skinner arises from personal knowledge of the plight of the many patients suffering from Low T3 syndrome who, in reality, have little support from the established medical profession who will not, or cannot, prescribe alternatives to T4 treatment.

In my own case, having been referred to a Consultant Endocrinologist because of having T3 levels at the bottom of the range with normal T4 levels and suffering obvious hypothyroid symptoms, the advice given was to increase T4 levels to [REDACTED]mcgpd.

This induced symptoms of Thyrotoxicosis and the GP, wisely, suggested a reduction to [REDACTED]mcgpd.

Whilst the hypothyroid symptoms remained the Thyrotoxicosis reduced!

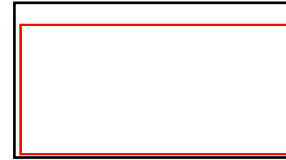
Clearly a case for an alternative approach.

Whilst not medically qualified, I have researched the subject of hypothyroidism widely and believe that my own professional standing as an engineer allows me to analyse the data and the trials undertaken in an objective and independent manner; in my opinion there is a case to answer.

Doctors such as Dr Skinner should be applauded for their courageous stance in attempting to relieve patients symptoms, even though their test results may be within the accepted laboratory ranges, and their actions ought to be encouraged by their peers.

A simple trawl of the Internet and reference to Patient Support Groups such as the Thyroid Patient Advocacy will give a flavour of the extent of the problem, perceived or otherwise!





23 May 2012

E Summerfield  
Interim Orders Panel Team  
General Medical Council,  
St James's Buildings  
79 Oxford Street,,  
Manchester, M1 6FQ

Dear Sir or Madam

**Interim Orders Panel at the GMC on Thursday 24 May 2012**

**Case number C1-462487326 - Dr Gordon Skinner**

Three months ago I wrote a letter in support of Dr Skinner in respect of case number C1-462487326. At this hearing on 22 February Dr Skinner was exonerated. I am now told you are now returning to what to all reasonable people must have been a closed case, and seeking to subject Dr Skinner to wholly unwarranted further persecution. I would like you tell me how your processes allow this manifestly unfair situation to arise.

In regard to the hearing itself I would ask allow Dr Skinner to continue in practice without hindrance. My reasons are follows. My wife [redacted] has been a patient of Dr Skinner since [redacted]. His diagnosis of her suffering hypothyroidism and prescribing appropriate medication has improved her health immeasurably His continued right to practice is vital for her continued good health and well-being.

Prior to her coming under his care, she had suffered [redacted] for a sustained period of time. She had consulted her GP who was unable to make a diagnosis and could not therefore recommend any ameliorative treatment. She referred [redacted] to an endocrinologist. The endocrinologist was also unable explain her symptoms and suggested only that she return in six months. However, given the continued debilitating nature of her condition, she was unwilling to follow his advice and sought an appointment with Dr Skinner.

After a long and comprehensive consultation Dr Skinner expressed his opinion that [redacted] was suffering from hypothyroidism. The medication he prescribed has proved to be most effective and she is now able to live a full and active life.

In conclusion I would reiterate my plea that he is allowed to continue in practice.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

**Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)**

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 15:54  
**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](mailto:ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 11:29  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Subject:** FW: dr skinner

P.S. i may like to add that Dr skinner is a fanastically intelligent doctor who has developed vaccines for illnesses. He is a virologist, and this doctors are rare.

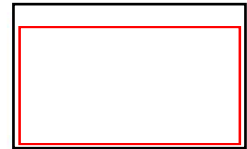
To whomever it may concern.

23 may 2012.

This is in support of Dr. Skinner. A very caring doctor who takes the time to listen to his patients, and gets them well. Unless a person has experienced the dreadful complications of thyroid/endocrine abnormalities i can tell you that they have no idea what it is like to suffer. The endocrine and thyroid hormones affect every single cell in the body and every function. You wouldn't buy a brand new car and have one bolt missing and expect it to run would you.? Well this is what most nhs endos are doing, -we are supposed to function on little or no hormones, with all sorts going wrong in our bodies.Plus we are meant to work and carry on as normal.it is IMPOSSIBLE. We need doctors like DR skinner. He has the ability to understand. If most endo and doctors do not know, then they should be educating themselves more with this. We are fobbed off as depressed and anxious and many a person is considered mental, when really its lack of thyroid hormone. He has helped so many return to health, which is our birthright, he cares, he listens, there is no reason to keep hounding him. He has knowledge where others haven't, we are not clones and what levels/treatment etc is good for one is not necessarily good for another. If your loved one was in a state and no-one helped but dr skinner, and he got your loved one well- what would you do?

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]




21 May 2012

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

Dear Mrs Summerfield

**Ref. Dr Gordon Skinner, Case No. ES/C1-462487326**

I had occasion to write to you in July last year and again in February this year in support of Dr Gordon Skinner. I have since been initially delighted to learn that at long last sense had prevailed and that Dr Skinner had been exonerated and faced no further investigation by the GMC. I am now unable to adequately put into words the distress that I feel having discovered that he is yet again being subjected to investigation.

I will not repeat details of my medical history in this letter as I outlined it in my previous correspondence, suffice to say here that I have been a most satisfied patient of Dr Skinner since . He has helped me to recover my full health where many other health professionals, both General Practitioners and Specialists have failed.

I understand that the basis of this new complaint concern the prescribing of thyroxin to a patient whose blood test results fall within the 'normal' scale. I would like to stress that I strongly consider that treatment based with total reliance on blood test results alone is wholly inappropriate and I know that this is a view widely held by many other hypothyroid patients. In my experience most General Practitioners follow this method, they have lost their own diagnostic skills, do not fully examine the patient and repeatedly fail to acknowledge the many distressing varied symptoms that the patient presents with, taking the misinformed view that "your blood test results are OK, therefore you are well". The General Practitioner then commonly attributes the unexplained symptoms erroneously to depression or in my case depression and post viral fatigue. It is also common practice to test only TSH and not to do a full thyroid screen which is another serious omission as the full picture of thyroid health cannot be gained by this practice. Worse still, in some computerised systems, blood test results are only reported as "normal" or "abnormal" preventing the doctor and patient from knowing whether the results are actually decreasing or increasing.

These practices must stop in order to prevent many other hypothyroid patients suffering unnecessarily at the hands of these misinformed practitioners. The full and proper training of these General Practitioners in thyroid medicine is long overdue, they seem disinterested and unable to keep abreast of up to date thinking and research in the field of thyroid medicine. If they were properly informed, time and money would not be wasted carrying out unnecessary investigations and providing treatment for various symptoms instead of the underlying cause, at the considerable cost to the already overstretched NHS.

The ranges used to test thyroid hormone levels in the blood in the UK have had doubt cast over them and need investigation and revision, a process which happened in the United States in 2003 when the normal TSH range was changed from 0.5 – 5.5 to 0.3 – 3.0, thereby capturing many unwell patients previously considered to be in the 'normal' range.



The current 'normal' reference range used in this country varies depending on the laboratory used, but for Free T4 is in the region of 10.0 – 24.0. In my case I was extremely ill, [redacted] with a T4 blood serum level [redacted] considered to be in the 'normal' range. It has since been proven that I need results at the high end of the scale to feel well. [redacted]

Dr. Toft, Consultant Physician, stated in the British Thyroid Foundation newsletter Issue No. 23 that "the correct dose is that which restores good health; in most patients this will be associated with a level of T4 in the blood towards the upper part of the normal range or even slightly high and a TSH level in the blood which is in the lower part of the normal range".

There is a general lack of knowledge and understanding amongst General Practitioners and in conclusion, it is the fault of the General Practitioners concerned that this situation has again arisen and not that of Dr Skinner who is an extremely professional, caring and understanding practitioner with unrivalled expertise in his field. Rather than being doubted and criticised due to ignorance, Dr Skinner's expertise should be sought, acknowledged, applauded and shared.

I hope that the IOP hearing on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May will be the end of such proceedings and that Dr Skinner will again be free to continue treating his many patients unhindered.

Should you require any further information in support of Dr Skinner please do not hesitate to contact me.

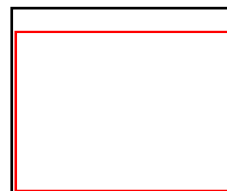
Kind regards

[redacted]

cc

[redacted]

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



23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Hearing with IOP and Dr. Skinner on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May Case No. ES/C1-462487326

Well where do I start? Quite simply, Dr. Skinner has saved my life.

This is certainly not a statement that I give to everyone I meet but truly believe that I would not be alive today if it was not for this individuals help and advice.

I would like to share my experience with you in the hope that it goes some way to explaining what an incredible man Dr. Skinner is.

I had been suffering [redacted] for [redacted] years [redacted]  
[redacted] Trying to explain how I felt during this time is extremely difficult but I guess 'rock bottom' would be appropriate.

[redacted] I would visit my GP with the hope that he would wave a magical wand and I would be cured – but time after time it was not to be. Don't get me wrong, he was supportive [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] He turned his attention to the possibility of having thyroid issue, there proceeded to do the tests which came back as 'within the normal range', so nothing progressed on that front.

I used the word 'we' in my previous paragraph because my whole family and close friends were heavily involved in assisting me through this horrible period of my life. I was walking along a very fine line by now – did I or did I not want to continue living.

[redacted]

My daughter-in-law had read an article in a National newspaper which explained the symptoms of Hypothyroid and it read exactly how I was feeling. She gave me and my husband the article to read.



I could not put the paper down. If someone had asked me to describe how I felt with my illness the it would be identical to this article and other people were suffering the same way. In a perverse sort of way. I was happy that someone else was suffering like me because I felt was an isolated case but no – and reading on there was this individual called Dr. Skinner who could help.

My husband immediately contacted the GP who in turn referred me to Dr. Skinner. We drove to [REDACTED] for the appointment under duress because I still felt very ill.

To cut a long story short, this marvellous had me feeling better within [REDACTED] WEEKS of seeing him. He had diagnosed my illness as hypothyroid and prescribed me with Armour which I continue to take. I have now returned to full health and live a normal life.

I feel indebted to Dr. Skinner for what he has done for me and in turn my family and friends who were affected during this time as well. He is an incredible and true professional and to think of him not being able to help people who suffer in the same way as I did would be an absolute travesty.

I was sincerely hope that you view this hearing in the manner it should be and allow Dr. Skinner to continue to practice and to save lives like he has done with mine.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

**Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)**

---

**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 15:55  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: Case No - ES/C1 -462487326 Dr 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](mailto:ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org)

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 13:52  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Case No - ES/C1 -462487326 Dr R B Skinner

To Whom It May Concern:-

I am writing in support of Dr Gordon Skinner whom I have been seeing as a patient for [redacted] years.

I was very surprised and appalled that Dr Skinner has to go through another hearing. This will be the fourth time I have written a letter of support for Dr Skinner.

Dr Skinner is the most caring and attentative doctor I have ever met. He is always available between appointments by telephone. He has a good relationship with my GP, whom he corresponds with after each of my appointments and in between appointments if there has been any change in my symptoms and prescription.

I hope you will take the above comments into consideration, when making any decisions regarding Dr Skinner's fitness to practice.

Your faithfully

[redacted]

**Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)**

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 15:56  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: Dr Gordon Robert Bruce Skinner - Case Number ES/C1-462487326  
**Attachments:** Dr Skinner GMC May 22 12.wps

**Elisa Summerfield**  
Investigation Officer  
Fitness to Practise Directorate  
General Medical Council

Tel: 0161 923 6336  
Fax: 0161 923 6578  
Email: [ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org](mailto:ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 14:23  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Subject:** Dr Gordon Robert Bruce Skinner - Case Number ES/C1-462487326

Dear Mrs Summerfield

Please find attached a letter in support of Dr Skinner for the IOP of May 24th.

Apologies for delay but our phone line/everything has been down for several days.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)**

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 15:55  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: Dr Skinner 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](mailto:ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 13:29  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Subject:** Dr Skinner IOP

Dear Mrs Summerfield and Members of the GMC Interim Orders Panel,

Dr Skinner is an outstanding doctor and it is of concern to me that he has been unjustly summoned to appear before the General Medical Council (GMC) on a number of occasions and is to appear again on 24 May 2012 (Ref: ES/C1-462487326). Fortunately, the GMC Panels have had the wisdom to allow this excellent doctor to continue to practise to date and I trust that they continue to do so.

Many people that I have met are reliant on Dr Skinner for the thyroid medication that they need for their very survival .













Please could all recipients of this email send me confirmation that this email has been received and is being dealt with as a matter of urgency? I await your response to my concerns and thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

cc Dr GRB Skinner

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17th May 2012

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 & knowledgeable doctor who has returned thousands of patients to good health, who were left previously to deteriorate by their own GPs.

Yet again, it seems that the Patient in this case has not had any concerns over Dr. Skinner's treatment & has had no part in the complaint against him.



It is extremely concerning that the GPs 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 negligence & lack of knowledge. It is these GPs who should be brought before the GMC for 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.

My own family has been devastated by thyroid disease, and I fear for the future health of my four children who are all affected by thyroid problems.

My father-in-law suffered a series of strokes & heart attacks 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 condition.

My father-in-law had years of suffering & a very poor quality of life, because his thyroid condition was not diagnosed, due to a lack of understanding & training of

GP's (and Endocrinologists) in this country  
in the diagnosis & treatment of thyroid  
disease.

I therefore implore you to listen to  
the PATIENTS involved in the concerns  
being raised against Dr Skinner.

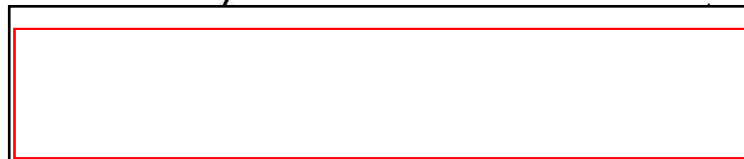
Dr SKinner's patients are not complaining  
about his treatments, and are in fact  
very relieved and thankful that at last  
they are seeing improvements in their  
health and have hope for their futures.

The GMC is in place to protect patients  
- not to leave them to vegetate & die,  
by continuing to allow this disgraceful  
lack of training in thyroid disease.

PLEASE LISTEN TO THE PATIENTS !!

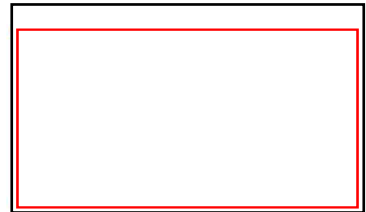
Dr SKinner is a wonderful doctor who  
has given us back our lives.

Sincerely,





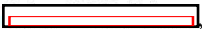
IOP Panel  
C/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield  
General Medical Council  
3 Hardman Street  
Manchester  
M 3 3AW



20th May 2012  
Case no ES/C1-462487326

Dear Elisa Summerfield

Another Interim Orders Panel for Dr GRB Skinner, this is 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 must be being orchestrated.

As far as I know Dr Skinner has done only well for his patients including my mum,  a very grateful patient who wouldn't be able to cope with life without this treatment.

The GMC has done 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.

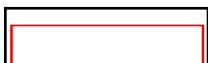
Owing to the majority of endocrinologists extreme reliance on the blood reference range guidelines, of which a very large percentage of people don't appear to belong, very ill and undiagnosed people are let down by the medical profession. They are breaking their oath by failing to aid their patients, possibly due to not wanting to lose face by being different or heaven forbid challenging the norm!

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 patient's 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. It is not, note, patients that are complaining that Dr Skinner is causing harm, they all see him as a champion, but his colleagues and equals.

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 at the expense of people's lives.

Yours Sincerely



## **Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)**

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 09:46  
**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](mailto:ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 18:54  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** ES/C1-462487326

### **ES/C1-462487326 Dr. G Skinner**

Dear GMC,

I wish to place on record my massive support for Dr. Skinner.

My partner was extremely ill, suffering from undiagnosed hypothyroidism for at least [REDACTED] years, until she was correctly diagnosed and treated by Dr. Skinner.

Rather than go into the whole sorry tale of how she was not diagnosed with hypothyroidism by her family G.P., it is easier to say that after initially suspecting hypothyroidism, her family doctor concluded that this could not be the case because the two tests which were carried out came back 'borderline' and then normal. She was then told she was [REDACTED] and that there was nothing further that could be done for her. As her symptoms progressed she was diagnosed with further, separate illnesses [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was at this stage, her symptoms so severe, that she again 'bothered' our local G.P. Again, the G.P decided that her symptoms matched that of hypothyroidism and so ordered more thyroid function tests, again we were told they were 'normal' (we were

later to find out that this meant 0.1 below a reference range). At this juncture we looked into what the symptoms of hypothyroidism actually were. We were amazed; every single symptom that my partner was suffering from was a symptom of hypothyroidism. Surely, this couldn't be a coincidence? Instead of suffering from a whole range of disparate illnesses, there was one illness which manifested itself with all of these symptoms.

My partner then asked her G.P to refer her to Dr. Skinner, which she did. It was from here that her life began to turn around. Dr. Skinner listened carefully to my partner as she told him of her symptoms and carried out a clinical examination of her, something that I had seen no other doctor do for my partner (and believe me, at this point we had seen many, many doctors, [REDACTED]). This, in conjunction with her blood tests, allowed Dr. Skinner to diagnose her as hypothyroid. He prescribed thyroxine, which my partner began to take.

That initial visit was coming up to [REDACTED] ago. Since that time my partner's health has increased beyond any description. It has not been an overnight cure, but gradually, she has returned to the person she was when we first met. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Indeed, I could barely have imagined her being able to walk to the top of our street one year ago!

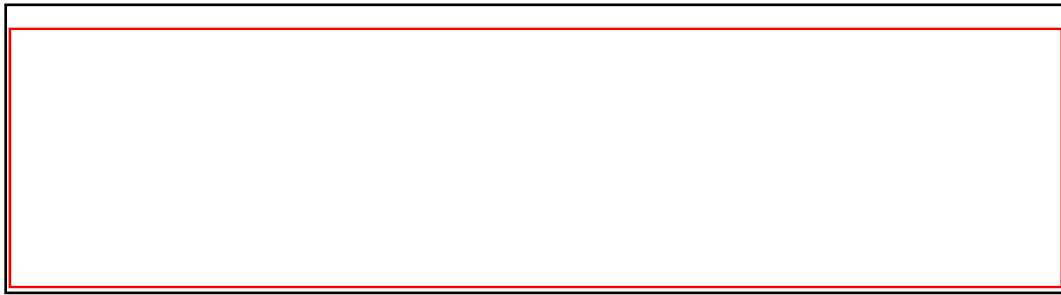
Many of our friends and family members have commented on how amazing the turn-around has been. Even just looking at her, they comment how well she looks in comparison [REDACTED]. They also ask if I am angry that she was not diagnosed earlier. I must admit, I am. However, this is tempered by the fact that I am so grateful that she has returned to health – something which neither of us thought was possible. We owe all of this to Dr. Skinner. If he did not possess the expertise and professionalism that he does then I can honestly say that I do not know what we would have done.

I could never put into words how grateful I am to Dr. Skinner for what he has done for my partner. He really has changed both of our lives. I am deeply, deeply saddened, worried, and extremely disgusted that Dr. Skinner has to defend himself at the GMC for helping people like my partner. People who, without the care of Dr. Skinner, would be left to suffer terribly at the hands of incompetent Doctors. I would be very interested to know why these proceedings are being brought against Dr. Skinner yet again. It seems, to me, unbelievably perverse that the one doctor that has actually helped my partner return to health after years of suffering is the one doctor who has to defend himself in this manner. I find it extremely upsetting that Dr. Skinner is having to defend himself in this manner yet again.

Should you require any further information of me then please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address supplied.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Ms Elisa Summerfield  
General Medical Council  
3 Hardman Street  
MANCHESTER M3 3AW

22nd May 2012

Dear Ms Summerfield

G R B Skinner MD (Hons) DSc FRCPath FRCOG

I am alarmed to hear that Doctor Skinner has been called to a GMC hearing scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> May.

For [redacted] years I consulted 3 different GPs about my poor health, and all of them, after taking blood and asking a few questions, decided [redacted]; their treatment never worked and my condition persisted.

[redacted] years ago I heard about Doctor Skinner and after a consultation which involved analysing my blood, examining me, listening to my symptoms and how they affected me, Doctor Skinner prescribed Armour Thyroid for an underactive thyroid. Thereafter I've been monitored on a regular basis and my GP, alongside Doctor Skinner, is part of that process.

I asked my GP at the time how I could have gone so long without being diagnosed with my thyroid condition. His response was that General Practitioners are very nervous about making the diagnosis and are much happier when an expert like Doctor Skinner makes it.

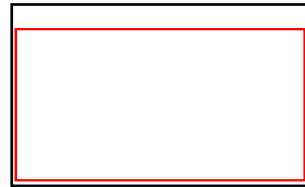
I owe my life to Doctor Skinner!

If you wish to contact me, please see my details above.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]





22nd May, 2012

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

Dear Sirs,

**Re. Gordon R B Skinner MD, DSc, FRCPath, FRCOG**  
**Case number ES/C1-462487326**

I am appalled that I should have to be writing yet another letter in support of Dr. Skinner who has been exonerated in all previous hearings. I call upon the General Medical Council to bring to an end the persecution of this dedicated doctor who is successfully pushing back the frontiers of knowledge.

I have been a patient of Dr. Skinner since [redacted]. Prior to seeing him I had been suffering [redacted] for over [redacted] years. [redacted]

[redacted] After carrying out extensive tests an endocrinologist could find nothing wrong and said he was unable to help. My GP also said she was unable to recommend any treatment at that time.

I consider myself very fortunate to have heard about Dr. Skinner's expertise from a friend. My GP was happy to refer me to him and when I saw Dr. Skinner he immediately correctly diagnosed my problem as hypothyroidism. As soon as I took the full dose of the medication he had prescribed my energy returned and I was able to live and work as I had before. The quality of my life and my general health has improved immeasurably. From my experience it would therefore seem perverse to challenge the right of Dr. Skinner to continue to practise since he has effectively diagnosed and treated my problem when no other health professional had helped me in any way. I am in no doubt that I owe my current state of good health to him.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

**Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)**

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 12:22  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: Dr G Skinner 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](mailto:ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 12:08  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Subject:** Dr G Skinner ES/CI/462487326

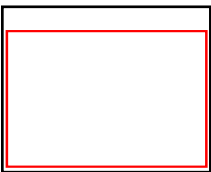
Dear Sir or Madam,

In support of Dr Skinner we would like to say that our daughter, who is now in her late [REDACTED] has suffered [REDACTED] for the past [REDACTED] years. At one point she was so ill that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

After making a very slow , but not full, recovery, she is now active [REDACTED]  
However, during the last [REDACTED] months under the care of Dr Skinner we have witnessed a remarkable change in both her levels of energy and in her ability to carry out normal day to day tasks without the need to recuperate.

It would be a great pity if the treatment she is receiving were to stop as the progress she has made during the past [REDACTED] is considerable and we hope that Dr Skinner will be able to continue to treat many more patients who will also be able to benefit from his care and knowledge.

[REDACTED]





**Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)**

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**From:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336)  
**Sent:** 23 May 2012 09:46  
**To:** Rose Morris (0161 923 6209)  
**Subject:** FW: Dr Skinner's IOP Hearing, 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](mailto:ESummerfield@gmc-uk.org)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 May 2012 17:59  
**To:** Elisa Summerfield (0161 923 6336); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Dr Skinner's IOP Hearing, 24th May 2012, ES/C1-462487326.

FAO IOP Panel  
c/o Mrs Elisa Summerfield

Re Dr Skinner's IOP Hearing, 24th May 2012,  
Case number ES/C1-462487326.

Dear IOP Panel members,

I'm writing to express my sincere support of Dr Gordon Skinner.

I have been a patient of Dr Skinner's since I was referred to him by my GP in [REDACTED]. At that time I was in such poor health [REDACTED] and at my wit's end to know what to do next. My GP felt that I was 'borderline' hypothyroid but was uncomfortable treating me, despite my having a family history of hypothyroidism, so agreed to refer me to Dr Skinner.

Dr Skinner, after a full clinical examination and a review of my blood tests, diagnosed me as having an underactive thyroid and prescribed me with Levothyroxine, starting on a small dose. Over the [REDACTED] months, the dose has been gradually increased and my health has improved tremendously. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I feel like I have my life back.

Dr Skinner has always shown me care and respect and I have always had the utmost confidence in his treatment. Every time I have either visited him at his surgery or spoken to him on the phone, I've always been struck by his professionalism, his thoroughness during consultations and efforts he goes to to reassure.

I recently moved and my new GP has been against the treatment I am receiving, despite the improvement in my symptoms, which has upset me enormously and his letters to Dr Skinner have been terse and utterly uncooperative. In contrast Dr Skinner has been extremely professional and polite in his return correspondence in the face of this and has also done his best to make sure I feel supported by either personally writing to me or talking to me on the telephone.

I believe that current UK guidelines concerning the treatment of hypothyroidism do not best reflect the clinical circumstances of many patients and 'borderline' cases like myself are in a pot-luck situation in that if our own GPs refuse to treat us (some GPs do treat 'borderline' cases) then we either lose decades of our lives, suffering from ill-health, while we wait for our blood results to slowly creep

outside the 'normal' range before 'qualifying' for treatment, or we decide that we want to fight for our health and see a private doctor who will treat us.

This situation had me so concerned that I wrote to my then MP [redacted], who passed my letter to the Secretary of State for Health. In the reply I received (28/10/10) from Paul Burstow MP, Minister of State for Care Services, he said: *"Doctors are encouraged not to rely too heavily on the results of blood tests, but to use their clinical knowledge and an assesement of the symptoms experienced by individual patients in making a diagnosis for thyroid treatment. Doctors are free to use whatever guidance they feel is appropriate when making a diagnosis. This includes guidance published in other countries."*

It would appear that contrary to the above, many GPs do in fact rely heavily on the results of blood-tests and ignore the symptoms experienced by individual patients. This has certainly been my experience and during my last appointment with my GP, he actually said the words "In this surgery, we don't treat the symptoms, we treat the blood test".

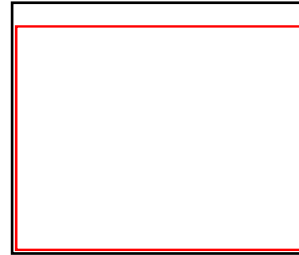
Doctors like Dr Skinner are the only hope I and people like me have at the moment. I consider Dr Skinner to have been admirable in the face of adversity and I will be eternally grateful to him for the courage and diligence he has shown in continuing to put the needs of patients like me first.

I urge the panel of the IOP to recognise that Dr Skinner would never place a patient in harm's way and has only ever sought to return his patients to health. Which he has certainly done in my case.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

[redacted]



31<sup>st</sup> May 2012

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

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Dear Sirs

I would like the GMC to recognize the care and support that Dr Gordon Skinner has shown me since I have been in his care. When I first went to see him I was feeling very ill with all the symptoms of hypothyroidism. No one knew how to successfully treat my symptoms which were progressively getting worse.

Before seeing Dr Skinner in [redacted] I had seen an Endocrinologist at the [redacted] Hospital. He done blood tests showing that, although I was on T4, my T3 levels were below the normal range. This explained why I was not responding to treatment and still feeling very unwell. It was the Endocrinologist at Ipswich first prescribed me to Liothyronine T3 in combination with Levothyroxine T4.

Although this helped my thyroid levels I still didn't feel any better but he could not explain why I still felt so unwell. I then looked into getting a second opinion and in particular investigated Endocrinologists in [redacted] thinking that they must be the top consultants.

I went to see an Endocrinologist at the [redacted] Clinic. During the consultations he was arrogant and dismissive of my hypothyroid symptoms. He immediately made me come off Liothyronine T3 and reduce the Levothyroxine T4 dosage. After being under his regime for a [redacted] I was feeling extremely unwell – worse than before I went to see him. I was feeling tied and most days couldn't even get out of bed. Consequently I had no confidence or trust in him so did not want to go back to see him. I therefore started to look for an alternative doctor and read about the good work that Dr Skinner was doing in [redacted]

At my first consultation with Dr Skinner I immediately felt at ease with him. He listened to me and was sympathetic to my whole host of symptoms and how the illness had taken over my life. I have travelled many times to [redacted] to see him and he also telephones me regularly to

check on me and see how I feel. Dr Skinner is an understanding, caring and compassionate doctor whose overwhelming concern is with my personal care and wellbeing – qualities which I have not received from any other doctor. Dr Skinner also has made a huge difference to my life and importantly outlook. Although I still have a very long way to go I am confident that with Dr Skinner's support that I may one day regain my health.

I am therefore shocked and very angered that the GMC and other medical professionals (not patients) seek to discredit and persecute Dr Skinner when he puts his patient's health and wellbeing first!

Yours faithfully



00778290

Dear Mrs Summersfield.

I am writing as a patient of Dr. Skinner as I have been in recent years.

I have been treated with synthetic ( $T_4$ ) thyroxine for over  years and can honestly tell you that the only time I have felt well has been when I have been treated with  $T_3$ , Triiodothyronine, which I encountered in later years.

As you will know some of the symptoms of this illness are extreme exhaustion, tension, unreliable memory and depression - a condition that takes a heavy toll on one's marriage, job and finances.

It has been well established that those people who do not respond to  $T_4$  can recover when taking  $T_3$ .

It was early in  that I was treated with  $T_3$ .  later I woke up feeling like the first day of Spring! Marvellous.

I feel desperately sorry for sufferers who cannot get  $T_3$ , the only way I obtain it is with prescriptions from Dr. Skinner.

Yours sincerely,

General Medical Council	
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