

Lord Harris of Haringey, Chair of National Trading Standards.

Ms Wendy Martin, Programme Director - National Trading Standards, Director of Policy - ACTSO

Monday, 4th September 2017.

Dear Lord Harris and Ms Wendy Martin,

Thank you for your Emailed letter of 25th August, and information about the Minister concerned.

To answer our own questions nos 2-5, we see it as self-evident that the anti-homeopathy pronouncements of all those concerned are nowhere near the level required to be taken seriously by any court of law nor, we trust, by Trading Standards either. We understand your point that no referrals have as yet been made by ASA to Camden TS, and that therefore your need for an 'expert witness' is at present purely hypothetical. But we think it only right to alert you to the question, were the hypothetical to occur, of who might your 'experts' be, and how you would verify in advance of a trial the quality of expertise they genuinely possess?

With regard to homeopathy, ASA and others in the UK, in the round, the absence of evidence that highly qualified Professors of medicine, doctors and other healthcare professionals in the millions using or advocating homeopathy as a frontline treatment for specific disease are all insane (question 7), we hope it is as obvious to you as it is to millions around the world that there is something very wrong in this country, and that we are looking here at a huge scam.

In order for Trading Standards to avoid being drawn into this scam, we consider your needs, and ours, and above all those of the public, to be the same: a new compliance partner for CAM.

We hope you have yourselves acquired as we recommended a copy of the Swiss HTA in order for you to personally verify the nonsense that ASA wrote and placed on its website about it. But our concern extends also to referrals that would have the full support of bona fide CAM practitioner: i.e. false claims unsupported by evidence creates unfair competition. That is why both you, and we, and the public too, need Trading Standards to have a reliable compliance partner who is up to date on the latest worldwide research and can advise you with facts. ASA Ltd. advises sadly only biased propaganda.

Are you aware of, and are you engaged with, the General Regulatory Council for Complementary Therapies (GRCCT), who would appear to meet most adequately the requirements of such a replacement, with the undoubted benefit of having (in marked contrast with ASA Ltd) years of professional knowledge and experience in the subject matter?

Numerous complaints have been made to ASA in the past, and there is a limit to how often it is sensible to bash one's head against the wall: better instead to wait on the one hand for leading Professors of medicine (with no business interests in homeopathy whatever) to condemn homeopathy deniers as 'telling lies' and all supposedly negative homeopathy analyses that ASA and others have relied on as 'scientific forgeries'; on the other hand for the need for a new compliance partner to become clear (Trading Standards perhaps having wasted sufficient time and public money over bogus CAM referrals from ASA) – all this against a background of ever-growing antimicrobial resistance which makes positive action essential.

We look forward please to hearing from you what action you will take to protect bona fide homeopaths continuing their lawful business, unimpeded by an unsuitable compliance partner.

And as a final word, Professor Peter Gøtzsche not only likens the Pharmaceutical industry to the Mafia, but says that even Government Ministers are bribed (to say nothing of intimidation, subtle or otherwise) as part of its programme of endemic fraud. We trust you will report to the Police without any hesitation anything untoward you might yourselves have encountered.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Burnett,
(and others redacted)

CC Minister Ms Margot James.