

## Letter and FOI to BEIS – July 2018

**“Only by omitting 98% of the evidence can you ‘prove’ homeopathy to be ineffective”. Homeopathy denigrators are therefore either very bad scientists, or else liars.** *Professor Robert Hahn*

The Minister of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy,  
The Rt Hon Mr Greg Clark MP.

27<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Dear Minister,

I refer to attached correspondence to Ms Margot James of your Department (letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017) which referred to National Trading Standards (NTS) seeking BEIS funding to prosecute homeopaths in breach of ASA Ltd’s edicts. Lord Harris and NTS no doubt passed to you much information, perhaps in the light of which your Department confirmed in reply to me that the planned meeting between BEIS, NTS and ASA Ltd. in September 2017 had not taken place.

NTS had planned to spend significant public money<sup>i</sup>, substantially on the basis of Sir Hayden’s Phillips *test case* report and his ‘expert in homeopathy’ (who as you may already know had according to his own CV no knowledge, training, or experience in homeopathy whatever).

Considerable new evidence has since emerged, showing Phillip’s report ever clearer to be scientifically nonsensical, a view shared perhaps now by Phillips himself: at any rate, after giving Phillips almost four months to respond to the attached letter, he has refuted not a single word, merely saying he has noted the points we make but is unable to withdraw his report (for reasons unstated).

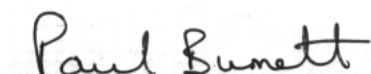
Professor Robert Hahn (see attached) has robustly shown that every homeopathy denialist is, as he puts it, either ‘a very bad scientist’, or else a ‘liar’. Lord Smith once said that if an ASA judgement is found to be wrong, it will be changed. Apparently not, however, in cases involving homeopathy.

We ask you and your team to study our attachments most carefully, where you will read precisely why millions of doctors worldwide, the German Pharmaceutical Industry too, would hold that plans last year had been for your Department to spend taxpayers’ money on propagating a policy with every likelihood of contributing to mass manslaughter, and open your department in our opinion to possible charges of Human Rights violations.

Further to the above material comments, we make a **Freedom of Information Request**:

Please supply details (dates; Minutes or other records; decisions made or pending) of all meetings held by members of the BEIS Department since May 2017 that have included the subject of homeopathy, and dates of any such future scheduled meetings.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Burnett, Lead Team Communication, Homeopathy International.

PS

We draw your attention to the comment by Mr Daragh Galvin of your department in an Email sent on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 at 09.11 to Ms Wendy Martin of National Trading Standards, claiming ‘banning of homeopathic treatments only last week on the NHS’. Not only was no decision on this matter made until almost a year after Mr Galvin’s Email, but as we say in our letter to NTS, all that has changed is that the NHS will no longer pay for NHS homeopathy prescriptions: as confirmed by the Prime Minister<sup>ii</sup> and by the Department of Health<sup>iii</sup>, physicians may in all other respects continue homeopathic treatment as before. Dozens of other medicines have also been dropped from the NHS prescriptions list, including paracetamol and suncream. Strangely though there has been no talk of these other medicines being ‘banned’. Neither have we heard suncream described as a ‘rubbish placebo’.

Attached:

- i. Letter to Ms Margot James, 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017
- ii. Letter to Lord Harris and Ms Wendy Martin (NTS), 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018
- iii. Letter to Sir Hayden Philips, 4 April 2018
- iv. Letters from the Swiss HTA authors to Mr Guy Parker, Chief Executive ASA Ltd.
- v. Professor Robert Hahn – Homeopathy, Ernst and Shang

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<sup>i</sup> The NTSB Annual Report (2016 – 2017), Section 12.2, page 87 states: *‘Discussions are just commencing on how the ASA are going to refer over a number of non-compliant homeopaths who are not following the guidance received by their industry and this is likely to be a significant area of work going into this new financial year.’*

<sup>ii</sup> As confirmed by the Prime Minister in Prime Minister’s Questions, 25th April 2018, treatment methods remain a matter of choice of physicians.

<sup>iii</sup> FOI request to the Dept of Health; reply (May 2018, Ref: 1119893) states:  
‘I would like to confirm that the DHSC does not maintain a position on any particular complementary or alternative medicine (CAM) treatments, including homeopathy. It is the responsibility of local NHS organisations to make decisions on the commissioning and funding of any healthcare treatments for NHS patients, such as homeopathy, taking account of issues to do with safety, clinical and cost-effectiveness and the availability of suitably qualified and regulated practitioners.’