

Telephone Enquiries
Please contact;

Jen Cusack Ext: 65341
Direct: (0113) 2065341
Fax: (0113) 2064954

Our Ref: DBJ/letters/ [REDACTED]

Date: 03 August 2000

[REDACTED]
127 Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 12 April. We are sorry that pressure of other commitments has delayed our response.

When we first suggested (in our letter of 1 December) that there might be merit in representatives of the Trust and the University meeting you, we had it in mind that such a meeting would be held **after** you had let us have a written list of the specific questions which in your view remained unanswered and which lay within the jurisdiction of the Trust or the University (or both). We suggested a meeting on that basis with the specific purpose of ensuring that we fully understood your concerns, and ensuring that we were all clear about the extent to which the University and the Trust could legitimately take those concerns forward.

In your letter of 12 April, you ask that the meeting be held **before** you make a further detailed submission to the Trust and the University. We agree to that. We must, however, make it clear that the *purpose* of the meeting has to remain the same: we see it simply as an opportunity to clarify the issues (that is, to clarify your concerns and to clarify our jurisdiction). After the meeting, we would still need to receive from you, on the basis explained in our letter of 1 December, a comprehensive statement of concerns falling within our jurisdiction which you are looking to the Trust or the University (or both) to take forward. We reiterate that you should include in that submission **all** questions which you consider we need to address: as we said in December, we are prepared to look at any unresolved issues which lie within our jurisdiction, but we must do so in a comprehensive fashion, in a way which avoids an endless dialogue or series of allegations. Only when we receive your submission will we be in a position to determine what further action, if any, either the Trust or the University can or should take.

Assuming that you are happy to meet on the basis outlined above, the Trust would be represented at the meeting by Hugo Mascie-Taylor and John Lovel and the University by Matthew Knight and Roger Gair. The meeting would take place at Trust Headquarters in Leeds, the date and time to be agreed.

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Trust Headquarters

St James's University Hospital, Beckett Street, LEEDS LS9 7TF



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In the meantime, we should confirm that the two individuals who carried out the preliminary screening of your original allegations against Professor Cunliffe have both confirmed in writing that they have never received any funding from Roche or indeed had any direct contact with that company. It is, however, our general policy that screeners are appointed on a confidential basis and that applies in this case.

Also we can report that we are now in a position to respond to your question about financial contributions made by Roche to the University. We must make it clear, however, that we can speak with any authority only for the past seven years, the period for which detailed financial records are kept. And we should make it plain too that, whilst we are reasonably confident that the data summarised below is complete, the nature of the accounting systems used by the University – a large and complex organisation, with a devolved management structure – make it impossible to be absolutely sure that we will have picked up *all* income from Roche even over the past seven years.

Subject to this caveat, we can confirm that the University received three research grants from Roche in the period since 1993, with a total potential value of up to £110k. (In the event, only £63k was claimed on these grants from Roche). None of the grants was to Professor Cunliffe, or indeed to anyone else in dermatology.

For completeness, there are three further points we should make. First, in the 1980s and early 1990s, Roche provided substantial recurrent funding for rheumatological research carried out through the University. Full details could be obtained (if at all) only at disproportionate cost, but this contract was worth about £176k per annum in 1988. To the best of our knowledge and belief, there is no link between the rheumatological research funded by Roche and Professor Cunliffe's dermatological work.

Secondly, in addition to the research grants mentioned above, the University has since 1993 invoiced Roche for some £4.5k for miscellaneous goods and services.

Finally, the University has received research funding from the Leeds Foundation for Dermatological Research, which in turn has derived a proportion of its income from Roche (about one seventh of the Foundation's total income over the past five years). The Foundation is a charitable company, limited by guarantee and registered with the Charity Commission; it promotes the study of skin disease and specifically seeks to improve knowledge of the means of prevention, diagnosis, methods of treatment and cure of skin disease. Since 1987, the University has been awarded research grants from the Foundation totalling about £520k.

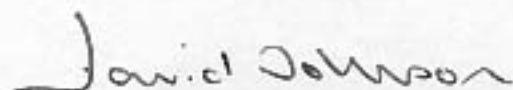
To set all of this in context, it is perhaps worth making the point that leading British universities derive a considerable proportion of their income through grants and contracts to undertake specific research projects, and that these grants and contracts come from a range of public-sector, charitable and commercial bodies. Income from research grants and contracts to Leeds in 1998-99, for example, totalled £51 million.

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Please note also that no matters of concern arose as a result of the Trust's financial audit referred to in our letter dated 1 December 1999, either in regard to Professor Cunliffe's affairs or otherwise.

Yours sincerely



DAVID JOHNSON
Chief Executive



PROFESSOR PIERRE GUILLOU
Dean of the School of Medicine