

14th June 07

Dear Sir / madam.

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER

I am writing in support of Dr. Gordon Skinner, who has quite literally 'saved my life'.

Until a few years ago my health had deteriorated to such an extent that most of my day was spent in a zombified state,

, I was in constant pain and I really thought that my life as I had previously known

it had gone forever and that I would soon be dead.

Since being treated by Dr Skinner I have improved beyond belief and am on the road to full recovery. My friends and family are astounded at the changes in me and cannot believe that I was left in such a state when my symptoms could so easily have been treated.

If complaints should be made against doctors then consider
3 of mine —

I feel extremely worried for the women who the endocrinologist saw and dismissed out of hand.

I could get very angry at the arrogant and incompetent treatment I have endured at the hands of the 'medical profession', so to hear of the treatment Dr Skinner is receiving for wanting to help & improve his patients health is ludicrous

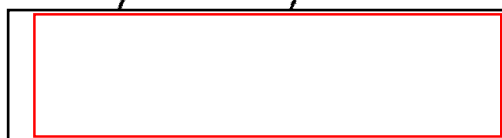
(4)
and a total disgrace.

The GMC should be embracing Dr Skinner for his commitment to his work and his patients' health.

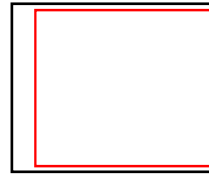
He is returning people to good health and he is being hounded by the GMC for his efforts.

I truly hope you listen to the many people who believe in him & for whom he has done so much good.

Yours faithfully



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Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St. James' Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR DR GORDON SKINNER

Dear Ms Collins,

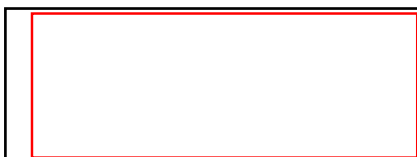
Before being diagnosed with hypothyroidism, I visited my GP [redacted]
[redacted] I had a blood test, which did not
show I had a thyroid problem. Eventually I had an appointment to see a specialist at
the ENT department of my local hospital, who found there was nothing wrong [redacted]

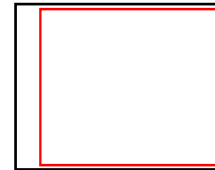
Everything about my life was too much trouble.

[redacted]
[redacted] After researching hypothyroidism on the internet, then reading Diana
Holmes' book – Tears Behind Closed Doors - I asked my GP if I could have a referral
letter for a consultation with Dr Skinner. I have now been a patient of Dr Skinner for
almost [redacted] years. Slowly he increased the levels of thyroxin – monitoring me by sight
every [redacted] months and on a monthly basis by telephone. He provided feedback to my
GP who was writing my prescriptions. At last my health and well being began to
improve. I felt more like the old me.

Since treatment with thyroxin my blood pressure has come down and is now stable.
Over the years my medication had gradually increased [redacted] three different tablets a day;
[redacted] Before I had
thyroid replacement therapy I felt I was sleeping my life away, and had lost interest in
most things. I feel so different now thanks to Dr Skinner, who has given me my old
life back.

Yours sincerely,





14 June 2007

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
GMC
5th floor
St James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ

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Dear Ms Collins

I am writing in support of Dr Gordon Skinner who treated me for hypothyroidism when my NHS blood test results all came back as normal. He could tell by examining me that the tests were clearly wrong, and sent off a blood sample for FT4 (for which the NHS don't routinely test).

The results for my TSH blood tests had been normal for 7 years or more before in desperation I begged to be referred to Dr Skinner. He found my FT4 was 5 when the normal range was 13 – 29, and began my treatment with Thyroxine.

Since then in my life has been transformed – I am working again,



The sufferers, mostly middle-aged women, are just assumed to be desperate for a quick diet fix, and this is blatant discrimination.

I feel we are very lucky to have Dr Skinner in these times of dependency on the computer for diagnosing this exhausting condition, and I give him my whole-hearted support.

Yours sincerely



18th June 2007

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer,
General Medical Council
5th Floor, St. James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
MANCHESTER M1 6SQ

Dear Ms Collins,

Letter of Support – Dr Gordon R B Skinner

I am writing in support of Dr Gordon Skinner whom I have found to be an exemplary doctor who has helped both me and my year old God-daughter.

My God-daughter, whose mother suffered from hypothyroidism, was

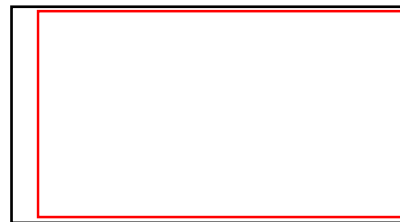
She was given
a thyroid function test by her GP and deemed normal.

It took me some time to persuade her to visit Dr Skinner but when she did he interpreted her test result to conclude that she had hyperthyroidism and started her on a course of thyroxin. later, she at last feels normal

Myself, I suffered years of very poor quality of life
until my thyroid supplements were increased.

I hope and pray that Dr Skinner's method of diagnosis of hyperthyroidism is allowed to continue and that the medical profession in general is made aware of his remarkable results with patients whose illnesses have not been treated adequately by their GPs or Consultants.

Yours sincerely,



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Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor St. James's Building
79 Oxford Street
MANCHESTER
M1 6FQ

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Re: Dr G R B Skinner MD(Hons)DSc FRCPathFRCOG

I have had thyroid problems for the past years and in my opinion during that time have been diagnosed and medicated inappropriately by the NHS. Due to this my health has suffered and in turn I have lost valuable years of my life that I will never be able to replace. I can only assume that the doctors didn't have the specialist knowledge or time to understand how I was feeling and to return me to optimal good health. I have nothing to thank the NHS for and in view of this perhaps you should be investigating them, not Dr. Skinner.

Having spent considerable time researching my condition I eventually found Dr Skinner. My first impression of him was mixed. His style was so different from previous doctors and like most NHS patients I was waiting to be dismissed after 5 minutes with very little explanation as to why I was feeling so wretched. He sat and watched, listened and questioned me and it all made sense. I was relieved that at last I had found a doctor who was taking an interest in my symptoms and as to how I felt.

no NHS doctor had ever taken it before!! My levothyroxine was increased to try and combat the symptoms ☐

I visited Dr Skinner in and requested to try Armour. I had nothing to lose and hopefully lots to gain from taking this medication.

I am now taking of Armour per day and am now into my month of taking them. I am amazed as to how I feel. I feel normal at last - ☐

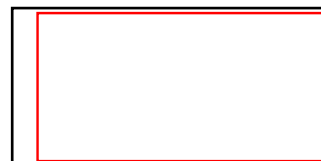
I cannot thank Dr Skinner enough for his compassion and care; he has been meticulous in his diagnosis and treatment. Do not ruin this man's career and prevent him from helping other poor souls. I have extreme **confidence** in him and will recommend to anyone who has the same problem.

On one last note, if by chance you make the wrong decision for him, **I will purchase Armour without prescription and continue to take this medication without approval from anyone.** I would prefer to take natural rather than manmade medication. Most of us eat pig products (I'm sure you and your colleagues do?) so what's the problem? **At the end of the day, it is my decision as to what I put into my body not yours! As long as I continue to feel this good I will do so.**

Hopefully, you will make the correct decision and allow Dr Skinner to help other thyroid sufferers to return to good health.

Yours sincerely

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17th June, 2007

Ms. Patricia Collins
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St. James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ.

Dear Ms. Collins,

Fitness to Practise Hearing
Dr. Gordon R. B. Skinner
Monday 2nd July, 2007

A mother's perspective on her daughter's Health (1)

When my daughter was years old, she was critically ill and we were told by the doctors that it was 50/50 as to whether she would live or die.

Just typing this still brings tears to my eyes at the memory of those long dark days.

[redacted]

She had thyroid blood tests but they all came back as 'euthyroid', no action to be taken. Could doctors not see as I could that she was dreadfully ill?!

[redacted] my husband and I took her to see Dr. Skinner. (I had been diagnosed a [redacted] years earlier by a local private GP and so recognized the symptoms). [redacted]'s chiropractor also recognized the signs and symptoms of hypothyroidism.

Dr. Skinner said at the time that she was so ill that she really should take time to recover [redacted] but she decided she didn't have the energy to carry on for that length of time, so Dr. Skinner (her saviour in this family's opinion) started her on a trial of Thyroxine.

What an appalling state of affairs then that the rest of the medical profession didn't see how ill she was. They only had to take one look at her to see the classic signs of hypothyroidism.

I started to get the daughter back I hadn't seen for [redacted] years. She didn't fully recover on Thyroxine, but once on Armour Thyroid the final miracle happened. [redacted]

[redacted]

How on earth can the GMC and the doctors who have taken it upon themselves to complain, wish to wreck Dr. Skinner's career when he has done so much good for so many thousands of patients?.

I have said it in my testimonial and will say it again here that the GMC should be ashamed of its actions. By taking any action that stops Dr. Skinner from practicing, there is a high risk that Julia's GP will then be too afraid to carry on prescribing her medication. Thus the GMC will be taking away her Human Rights to live a long, happy and healthy life.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Please make sure that all members of your Fitness to Practise panel read this letter and take note of its content.



18th June 2007

Ms. P Collins
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate,
General Medical Council,
5th Floor,
St James's Buildings,
79 Oxford Street,
Manchester,
M1 6FQ


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Dear Ms. Collins,

Dr. Gordon Skinner
Fitness to Practise Hearing
Monday 2nd July 2007

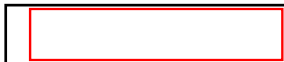
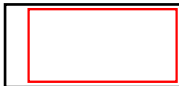
I am writing in support of Dr. Gordon Skinner for his Fitness to Practise Hearing.

It is my opinion that the accusations against him are entirely wrong, as I have received nothing but 100% professional treatment from him.

During a recent diagnosis of  although now under the care of my GP for hypothyroidism, I did write to him to inform him of my condition and he has given me support beyond his duty of care, telephoning to keep up to date with my diagnosis and treatment.

I trust you will take into consideration the many testimonials that you receive from patients.

Yours sincerely,



COPY: MR. R. SHIPWAY

[REDACTED]

Ms P Collins
Investigating Officer GMC
5th Floor St.James's Bldgs
79, Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ

RE: Dr.Gordon R.B.Skinner MD

17th June 2007

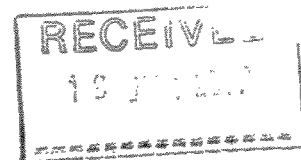
Dear Madam,

In [REDACTED] I fell ill [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Attempts were made with chemical T3 and Thyroxin, which did not help at all. They were unable to prescribe Armour Thyroid. I used a plant derived product, which had little effect.

After much searching, I found Dr.Gordon R.B.Skinner, who held a clinic in [REDACTED]. Prior to the first consultation, he requested copies of all previously run tests and a new one to be done by my GP, a referral letter and address details. He sent a thorough questionnaire to be filled. A temperature test to be taken over a period of time. After I forwarded the information, he sent a mini-CV and excerpts from his research. My first appointment was in [REDACTED]. Every [REDACTED] months Dr.Skinner wanted a thyroid test to be carried out and sent to him, prior to repeat prescription or consultation.



RE: Dr.Skinner 17.6.07 pg2

Since he does not hold clinics in [] anymore, I have sent all the necessary blood-tests to [] as well as some correspondence describing my state of health. There also were some telephone conversations. While under the care of Dr.Skinner, I have always felt assured, that I was well looked after and that I always had access if needed. His insistence on regular tests and the careful paperwork involved and the continued success of the treatment, show clearly, that he is an excellent physician. I am deeply impressed with his ability to elicit the most detailed information and his caring attitude. I would recommend him to anyone with similar problems.

I have been under his care now for [] years. []

[] my health has remained reasonably well. I cannot stress enough, that without Dr.Skinner's prescription of Armour Thyroid my health would be prejudiced and my right to optimal health undermined.

Yours/faithfully

Copy to: Mr.R.Shipway

Dr.G.R.B.Skinner

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor, At James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ

13 June 2007

Dear Ms Collins,

Dr Gordon R B Skinner MD (Hons) DSc FRCPATH FRCOG

I am writing to you with reference to the GMC Fitness to Practice hearing regarding Dr Skinner. My letter is supplementary to the one written by my father [redacted]. Although I feel that it is appropriate that he write to you explaining the history of my case as it stems from when I was at an early age, I also wish to write a letter of support for Dr Skinner giving my own perspective.

In [redacted], when I first became ill with what was later thought to be a viral infection I was at an age, [redacted]

[redacted] I was offered no treatment. It was as if I had simply exhausted the system.

Hypothyroidism had been mentioned before this point but quickly dismissed by doctors who preferred to rely solely on blood tests for a diagnosis rather than look more broadly at the symptoms I was experiencing and the fact that I had a family history of hypothyroidism. After my parents own research on the subject and consultation with a specialist who diagnosed me with an under-active thyroid, we met with Dr Skinner almost [redacted] years after I had first become ill. I had already started taking armour thyroid at this point, on the advice of the previous specialist, and after an unsuccessful trial on thyroxine it was decided I remain with what was working. As part of Dr Skinner's policy I have had consultations with other doctors as well as regular blood tests and after every meeting Dr Skinner has written to my GP. In the last [redacted] years, I have at times altered my dosages slightly through discussion with Dr Skinner and in the last [redacted] I have actually lowered it.


At no point under Dr Skinner's care have I ever felt pressured do something nor not fully understood the options that I chose to undertake. I have every confidence in Dr Skinner's ability and am glad that there are doctors like him. [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

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19 JUN 2007


CC: Dr G R B Skinner, Mr R Shipway

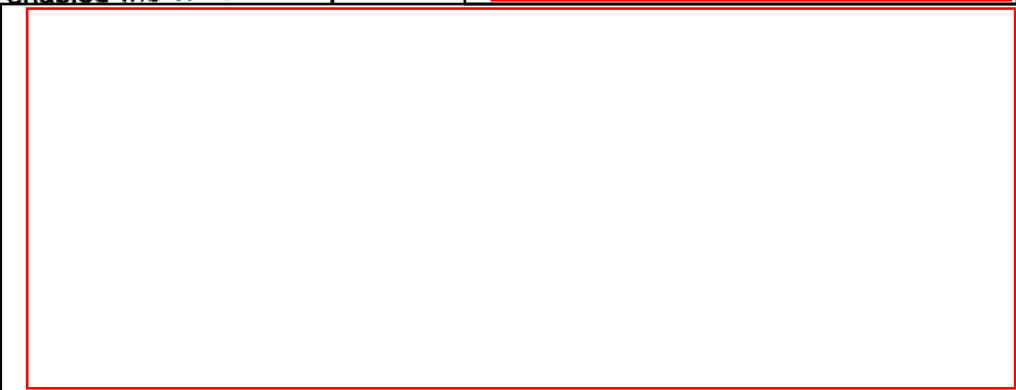

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6FQ


19th June 2007

Dear Ms Collins

General Medical Council Fitness to Practise hearing to be held 2nd July 2007
for Dr Gordon RB Skinner

It is with great regret that I find it necessary to write this letter. However, Dr Skinner deserves my unreserved support for, not only saving my life by treating my condition, but also returning me to good health. This, in turn, has enabled me to return to paid work 



I have been a patient of Dr Skinner's for  years. He has always conducted himself in a thoroughly professional manner. He has always liaised with my General Practitioner and kept her fully informed of my treatment. He regularly requests thyroid blood tests to support his management of my condition.

Dr Skinner has been a very positive influence for me. My quality of life has improved tremendously. Consequently, my family, friends and the people that

[redacted] have also benefited. By treating my condition, he has enabled me to become a more capable mother to my [redacted] year old daughter and a better wife to my husband because I can be more independent. I am also a more valuable member of society, particularly through the work I do.

I am enclosing my family's medical history, together with my own brief medical history and further details of my visits to Dr Skinner. I want the GMC hearing to be aware of the high incidence of thyroid disease in my family and also the appalling treatment that people like myself receive from the National Health Service. This is, I believe, due to the apparent dismissal of clinical signs and symptoms and the over dependence upon blood test results being used in isolation. Which, in turn, forces people to seek treatment outside of the NHS if they want to get well. It is my belief that all people with this condition want to become well.

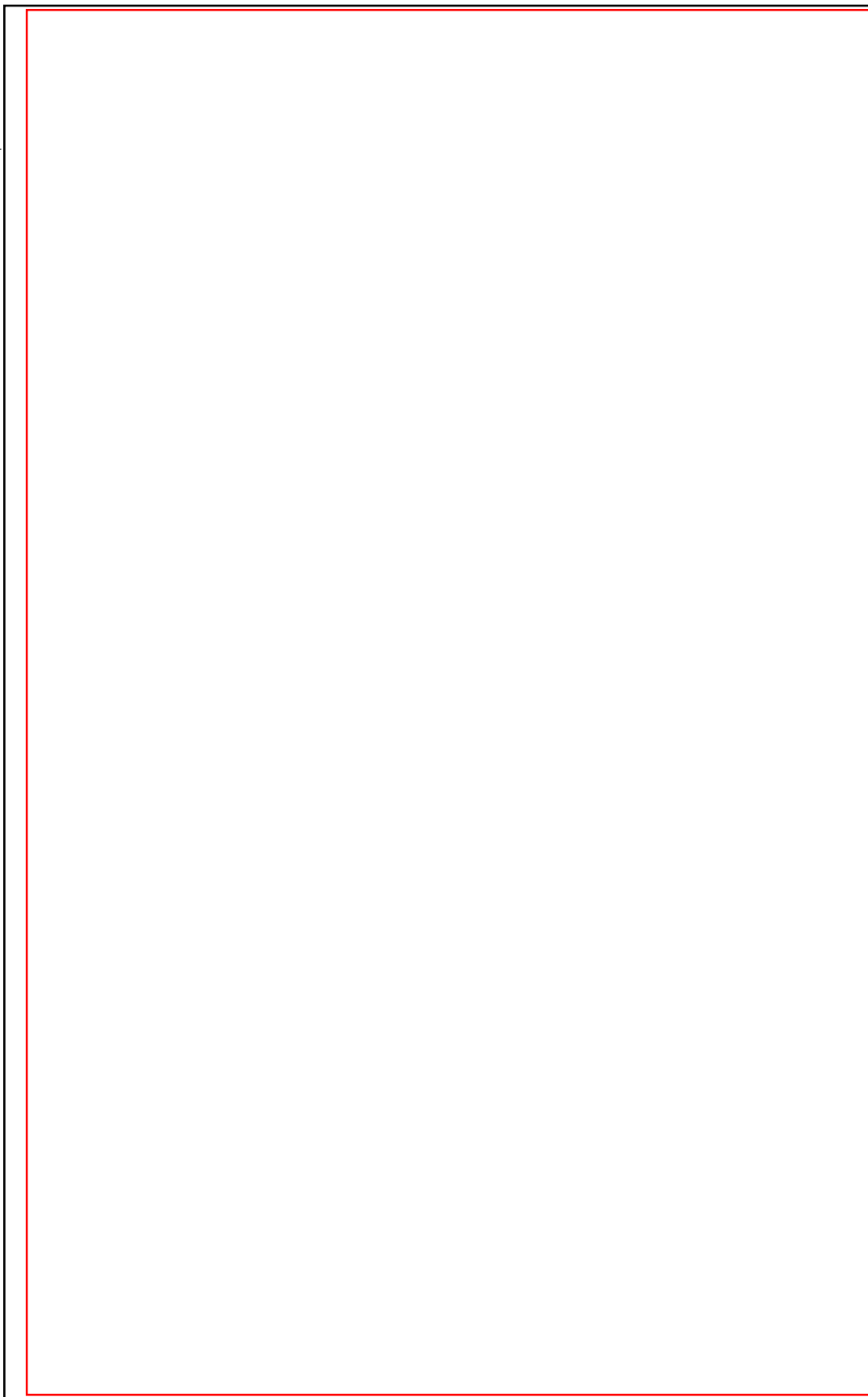
I cannot emphasise enough, my respect for Dr Skinner. Goodness knows what would happen to all of his patients without this man's dedication and support, even in the face of adversity. I strongly hope that as well as a positive outcome for Dr Skinner, this hearing will draw attention to the plight of the many people who struggle to get both a correct diagnosis and adequate treatment for their conditions, enabling them to return to good health and a reasonable quality of life.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Copies to:

Mr R Shipway
Dr Gordon R B Skinner



My first impression of Dr Skinner was of a very calm, pleasant man. His manner was most professional. He did everything he could to put me at my ease. One of the most important things about him was that he listened to me. He listened to my medical history, my family's medical history, how other doctors would not treat me, how the condition had changed me into someone I did not know and made me unable to work, the effect on my family and most of all, he listened to how I felt. He gave me a thorough physical examination and asked me lots of questions, all of which were relevant to what I was experiencing. He made the comment about me being entitled to feel depressed if I had been living with all of the symptoms for so many years. I personally defy anyone to feel otherwise!

He completed his examination and prescribed mcg Thyroxine to be taken daily and to be increased very slowly. He told me that because it had taken so many years to become so ill, that I could not expect to get well immediately and it would take time for my health to improve. He sent me away with clear instructions of how I was to take my medication and to return in months

[redacted]

time. However, if I had any concerns whatsoever, I was to ring the emergency number I had been given.

I left his consulting room and promptly burst into tears. The relief that at last someone believed me was overwhelming. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] I have continued to improve day by day for the last [redacted] years. Dr Skinner has always been very supportive of me at the times when I have had concerns about my condition. I still have the condition, which is kept under control by the replacement thyroid hormone but thankfully I have fewer symptoms these days.

Dr Skinner prescribes my thyroid hormone and I have to pay privately for my prescriptions. I can only do this if I am well enough to work. If I become unwell and unable to work, I will be unable to afford my prescriptions. My treatment will return to my GP who is bound by BMA guidelines to keep the blood test results 'in the normal range' irrespective of how I feel and how unwell I become. I am currently taking Armour Thyroid for my condition and it is proving very effective. It is my understanding that this was the recognised medication for the treatment of Hypothyroidism before the development of synthetic thyroxine.

Family History of Thyroid Disease

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Date: 17/06/07

CC Simon Hughes MP, Andrew Lansbury CBE MP, Alan Rusbridger Editor The Guardian,

Dear Ms Collins,

I am writing regarding the Fitness To Practice hearing of Dr Gordon Skinner. I am disgusted not only at the UK medical profession's continual failure to provide proper treatment for Hypothyroid patients but the professional hounding for no adequately explained reason of any doctor brave enough to put patient care over current medical fashion in this field.

Untreated or subclinical Hypothyroidism is devastating and ruins lives, marriages and careers. Ultimately it can actually kill people. I nearly lost my career and my home because I became quite ill and unable to do anything very much and now upon finally obtaining a few months of very successful treatment from Dr Skinner and starting to rebuild my life, I am faced not only with the prospect of

[redacted] but also I have the additional worry that the only doctor prepared to help me recover fully might now be prevented from doing so.

[redacted] I eventually saw a different GP and was referred to Dr Skinner privately.

Dr Skinner asked for all my test results which I obtained for him. He spent a great deal of time going through a list of possible symptoms which cleared up many problems for me as I had a lot of health issues I did not realise were related to hypothyroidism and had been too tired to try and get checked

out and I was immensely relieved to find out what was causing them and that it was all treatable. He took my blood pressure, examined my neck and was very sensible. He wrote to my referring GP, asking her to prescribe Thyroxine, and has been more careful and more thorough than most other Doctors I have ever seen.

The result of Doctor Skinner's treatment has been that [redacted] two months on his recommended regime of Thyroxine I already feel better than I have in years. [redacted]
[redacted] thyroid function and menstrual cycle are returning



I have been at a loss to find an explanation for the abysmal treatment I have received up until I was referred to Dr Skinner and have tried to find out why it is so hard to get a simple and easily and cheaply treatable long known illness such as this dealt with in the UK today. I researched it as I would any other project in my line of work and is what I have found:

A. The UK medical profession's over reliance in recent years on a reference range that has been proved to be skewed (because reference populations previously considered normal were contaminated with individuals with various degrees of thyroid dysfunction that served to increase mean TSH levels for the group ^{1, 2, 3}) while completely disregarding all the patients symptoms no matter how severe, is bad science and bad medicine. It is also costing the Healthcare and Social Services a lot of money as it is inestimably cheaper to prescribe Thyroxine, a very cheap medicine, to prevent the many illnesses hypothyroidism causes, than treat the heart disease, raised cholesterol levels,⁵ infertility, miscarriage, exhaustion, depression and obesity etc caused by hypothyroidism, separately.

Since January 2003 the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists has recommended that doctors "Consider treatment for patients who test outside the boundaries of a narrower margin based on a target TSH level of 0.3 to 3.0. AACE believes the new range will result in proper diagnosis for millions of Americans who suffer from a mild thyroid disorder, but have gone untreated until now." This is a range half the size of the one currently considered as gospel in the UK no matter how ill you are. Had I been treated according to this recommendation I would have been saved years of severely declining health and much personal and financial misery. I was close to losing my home and it will take me years to pay off the debts accumulated quite unnecessarily.

B. No one can actually explain what the ill effects of treating sub clinical Hypothyroidism or prescribing Thyroxine are actually supposed to be or why the UK establishment is so very adamant about refusing to do so. The best anyone can come up with as to why we should remain untreated appears to be that to do so might precipitate Hypothyroidism *which is what is happening to us anyway*. Yet the only actual studies I can find at all on the effect of treating early versus not treating early come down very heavily in *favour* of early treatment. Some studies even found early treatment with Thyroxine led to a reversal of the decline and normal thyroid function being resumed. This happened in precisely none of the untreated control groups.⁶

C. No one is textbook. Different people have slightly different "normal" ranges in all things and different patterns of thyroid dysfunction and both of the current reference ranges are too uncertain a method of determining what is going on from merely one test with no repeat follow up tests at regular intervals to see if a pattern emerges and no importance given to symptoms or history.

[Redacted]

The whole reason for existence of the healthcare profession, for which we all in the UK pay so much tax, is to safeguard our health. Where it ceases to put this first it simply becomes an additional burden to us and not the safeguard and relief it exists to be. Failure to treat us according to our personal clinical need, as is happening extensively in this field now, means you not only betray us but everything you are supposed to stand for.

Currently, because of this country's terrible record on the recognition and treatment of hypothyroidism large numbers of people are suffering a myriad of diseases quite unnecessarily and at great expense to the NHS. Heart disease, infertility, unnecessary hysterectomies etc. Sooner or later this will come into the public eye and recompense will be sought. Hypothyroidism can affect anyone, at any time of life. A failing thyroid affects every cell in your body, every aspect of your health, function of your brain, perception of the world and quality of life. I didn't know about any of this before it happened to me and was happy in my ignorance, but the most terrifying thing has been the total lack of help and support from the medical profession until Dr Skinner put me on Thyroxine and I started to be able to repair my life. I am extremely angry that I have lost a lot of career opportunities, a lot of money and more importantly, probably the last of my fertile years to this miserable rubbish when it was all quite preventable by the use of cheap thyroxin medication and the application of common sense. God bless Dr Skinner for providing both.

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted]

1 CONTROVERSY IN CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY The Evidence for a Narrower Thyrotropin Reference Range Is Compelling
Leonard Wartofsky and Richard A Dickey *Department of Medicine, Washington Hospital Center, Washington, D.C. 20010; Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland 20814; and Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, D.C. 20006*
The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism 90(9):5483-5488
Copyright © 2005 by The Endocrine Society
doi: 10.1210/jc.2005-0455

2. Research done by the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry, part of the Academy of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC), and presented in their Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Monitoring of Thyroid Disease. Late in 2002, this group reported that: "In the future, it is likely that the upper limit of the serum TSH euthyroid reference range will be reduced to 2.5 mIU/L because >95% of rigorously screened normal euthyroid volunteers have serum TSH values between 0.4 and 2.5 mIU/L."
Guidelines can be found at: http://www.nacb.org/lmpg/thyroid_LMPG_PDF.stm

3. Hypothyroidism: screening and subclinical disease
A P Weetman, Professor of medicine. President of the British Thyroid Association.
Department of Medicine, University of Sheffield Clinical Sciences Centre, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield S5 7AU
BMJ 1997;314:1175 (19 April)

4 "TSH-controlled L-thyroxine therapy reduces cholesterol levels and clinical symptoms in subclinical hypothyroidism: a double blind, placebo-controlled trial (Basel Thyroid Study)." *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*, 2001 Oct;86(10):4860-6 (Article demonstrating that treatment of

patients with subclinical hypothyroidism could help with cholesterol levels and potentially reduce cardiovascular mortality risk by 31%)

5 "The Beneficial Effect of L-Thyroxine on Cardiovascular Risk Factors, Endothelial Function, and Quality of Life in Subclinical Hypothyroidism: Randomized, Crossover Trial"

Salman Razvi, Lorna Ingoe, Gill Keeka, Crispian Oates, Carolyn McMillan and Jolanta U. Weaver
Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism, doi:10.1210/jc.2006-1869

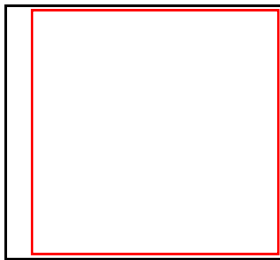
The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism Vol. 92, No. 5 1715-1723

Departments of Endocrinology (S.R., L.I., J.U.W.) and Biochemistry (G.K.), Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead NE9 6SX, United Kingdom; Department of Regional Medical Physics (C.O.), Newcastle General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6BE, United Kingdom; Department of Psychology (C.M.), Health Psychology Research, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham TW20 0EX, United Kingdom; and Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology (S.R., J.U.W.), School of Clinical Medical Sciences, University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HH, United Kingdom

6a Thyroid, 2001 Mar;11(3):249-55, "One-year prophylactic treatment of euthyroid Hashimoto's thyroiditis patients with levothyroxine: is there a benefit?"

6b En-Ting Chang, Du-An Wu, Dee Pei, Shi-Wen Kuo, Ming-Chen Hsieh. [P2-552] Influence of L-Thyroxine Administration in Patients with Euthyroid Hashimoto's Thyroiditis. Endocrine Society Endo 2005 Abstracts

6c Duygu Yazgan Aksoy, et. al. "Effects of Prophylactic Thyroid Hormone Replacement in Euthyroid Hashimoto's Thyroiditis" Endocr J (Japan) Vol. 52: 337-343, (2005).



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19th June 07

Dear Ms. Collins,

I am writing in support of Dr Gordon Skinner, as I did last year too. I am appalled and dismayed that this travesty of hounding a doctor of such integrity and experience has continued so that Dr Skinner must face a Fitness to Practise hearing in July.

As I said in my letter last year, which I sent to the General Medical Council, Dr Mark Dudley of the Medical Protection Society and Mr Ralph Shipway, my health started to deteriorate in [redacted]. I was given the diagnosis of [redacted].

My clinical symptoms were however 'text book' for Hypothyroidism and Adrenal dysfunction.

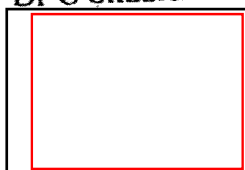
Over the following years my health continued to deteriorate [redacted]. Life was very bleak. Then in [redacted], at the age of [redacted] I was referred to Dr Skinner who took my failing health very seriously. He assessed my clinical symptoms and put me on Armour Thyroid [redacted]. He told me it would take time for my body to repair and it did, but [redacted] years on I now lead a normal, full life with my husband, [redacted].

I cannot stress strongly enough how grateful I am to Dr Skinner for looking first and foremost at my clinical symptoms rather than just blood tests. If it were not for Dr Skinner I would still be trapped in the dreadful and pain filled world of undiagnosed hypothyroidism.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
[redacted]

Copies to: Dr G Skinner



Mr Ralph Shipway
Radcliffe Le Brasseur
5 Great College Street
Westminster
London
SW1P 3SJ

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13.06.07

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St James Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins

Re: Dr Gordon R.B. Skinner – Fitness to Practice Panel

As a patient of Dr Skinner for years, I am writing in support of him continuing to treat hypothyroid patients. It is a terrible travesty that such a well respected doctor should be treated in such a way, due to wrongly informed professionals who have no evidence in support of their claims that Dr Skinner has ever harmed anyone in his many years of clinical practice. It would seem to me that Dr Skinner is being punished for actually helping people return to their optimal health.

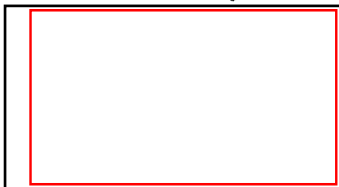
My own health had deteriorated to such a devastating and debilitating extent, that I am sure without the help from Dr Skinner I would never have recovered. Due to the fact that my thyroid chemistry was within normal limits, thyroxin was not prescribed by my doctor.

It seems to me that the obvious answer is to invest money into more investigations into the treatment for hypothyroid patients, rather than wasting essential funds on reprimanding a doctor whose only aim is to return his patients to optimal health. There is an essential and vital need to reassert the importance of clinical observation in conjunction with laboratory based evidence in medical practice.

Those who are bringing Dr Skinner to the panel have not had the hands on experience that Dr Skinner has had and with his wealth of knowledge, he should be supported rather than reprimanded. He is an asset to the medical profession.

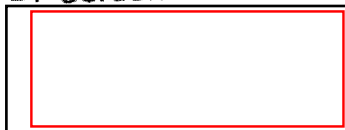
My family and I are so grateful to Dr Skinner for the treatment he has provided without which I would have been allowed to deteriorate and would have had an extremely poor quality of life.

Yours sincerely



C.C.

Dr Gordon R.B. Skinner



Mr R Shipway
Radcliffes le Brasseur
5 Great College Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3SJ

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Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
MANCHESTER
M1 6FQ

15 June 2007

Dear Ms Collins

DR GORDON R B SKINNER MD (Hons) DSc FRCPath FRCOG

I am writing in support of Dr Skinner, as I am aware of the upcoming Fitness to Practise Hearing.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] With the support of my parents we did the rounds, trying to find a treatment that would make me well. During this time my aunt was diagnosed with an underactive thyroid and I already knew that my paternal grand mother had the same condition. In discussion with my aunt I became aware that I had a lot of the same symptoms as her, but my GP still insisted that my blood tests were within "the normal" range and that my problem was [Redacted] even though hypothyroidism is "in the family".

[Redacted]

[Redacted] My father heard of Dr Skinner and his work, did some research about him (as he was very aware of the controversy surrounding him) and felt that what he stands for made a lot of sense. I contacted my GP and asked for a referral and this he did.

Dr Skinner is treating me for hypothyroidism. I am in my [Redacted] of taking thyroxin and for the first time in years I can see a future for myself. My flatmates are quite amazed at the difference in me. I still have [Redacted] but they have commented that they are seeing much more of me and that they can see a difference.

It's hard to explain to people (and doctors) who have never been stuck in the void of symptoms versus blood tests and who are lucky enough to be "normal", just what life is like inside a body that doesn't function properly.

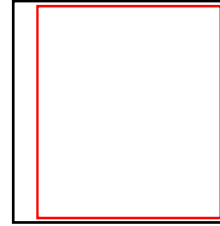
I thought that, at [Redacted] years old, I didn't have much going for me at the present and worried about how I would cope with my life in the future, feeling the way I did. Dr Skinner has changed my life, I'm looking forward to feeling better week by week. [Redacted] and to me now the future looks rosy. However, what about all those other people out there who are like me and the many other people that Dr Skinner has treated. I don't understand what he is doing that is so wrong, why is it so wrong to give people their lives back and to no longer be a drain on the NHS? I would urge you allow Dr Skinner to continue his work.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

Cc Dr Skinner, [Redacted]
Mr R Shipway, RadcliffeLeBrasseur, 5 Great College Street, Westminster, London. SW1P3SJ

20-06-05



Dear Adam Elliott,

I would like to say that I am now seeing my real mother for the first time as when I was born she was ill and unable to give me the love and attention that goes with being a mum she was a different person then, as her illness changed her personality. After seeing Dr Skinner she began to improve and is now much better. I would not like my mum to go back to what she was when she was ill, she was impossible to live with and I was thinking of leaving home, but not now. So please help me to keep my Mum as she is now, enjoying life and still improving.

Yours Very Sincerely



COPY OF LETTER SENT
TO ADAM ELLIOTT.

RECEIVED

19th June 2007

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor, St James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
MANCHESTER
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins

RE: DR GORDON R B SKINNER

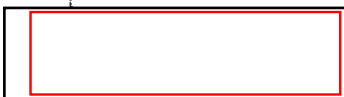
I am writing to put on the record just how astounded I am that Dr Skinner has been summoned to attend a Fitness to Practice hearing on 2nd July 2007. I do not know of a more professional, dedicated, caring and enlightened doctor, without whose help my life would still be in ruins. His sole aim has been to try to restore the health of the large number of patients, who have turned to him in desperation, due to the failure of others in the medical profession to recognise that their symptoms are caused by thyroid problems.

Having suffered a [REDACTED] at which stage I was unable to function at all – I had to give up work and could not even carry out simple tasks due to [REDACTED]. My GP referred me to one, and then another, endocrinologist, both of whom separately were unable to come up with a diagnosis of my health problems. Thank God, through a fellow sufferer, I heard of Dr Skinner and since the start of my treatment with him in [REDACTED] I have made steady progress back to health. He was imaginative enough to look beyond my perhaps atypical thyroid function tests ([REDACTED]) and to suggest that I was indeed suffering from thyroid failure (the view of my own GP, but not the two endocrinologists). I was given a thorough examination and, for the first time, was asked a series of probing questions about my symptoms and how I was actually feeling. Dr Skinner's exhaustive and professional approach gave me huge confidence that at last someone understood what I was going through and gave me hope that a solution could be found. Dr Skinner prescribed thyroxine in small increments over the next [REDACTED] months. We have gradually built up my dosage of thyroid replacement medication and, together with regular monitoring and blood tests, we have now reached a position where I feel like "me" again and can cope with life once more. It has been a difficult journey, but throughout it all Dr Skinner has been understanding and at all times, utterly professional. He has taken the time to find out exactly how I am feeling and has always been available for a chat on the telephone when I have needed his support.

- 2 -

I and no doubt many other patients, including my own daughter, would be lost without him. I find it hard to comprehend why someone who works so tirelessly for the benefit of his patients is being put through this ordeal. I would ask you to think very carefully about your enquiry and the ramifications for so many people if Dr Skinner is no longer able to continue to treat us so successfully.

Yours sincerely

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

cc. Dr Gordon R B Skinner
Mr R Shipway




20 June 2005

Adam Elliott
Interim Orders Panel
General Medical Council
Regent Place, 350 Euston Road
London

Dear Mr Elliott,

I am outraged that Dr Skinner has to attend a meeting at the General Medical Council on 29 June 2005. I owe my life to Dr Skinner and thanks to Dr Skinner's careful and appropriate treatment for my underactive thyroid, wonderful improvements to my health have occurred.

I was diagnosed with hypothyroidism during childhood and given suitable treatment to regain my health. In , my NHS thyroid treatment was reduced and due to under treatment of my hypothyroidism, my health rapidly declined and I was utterly debilitated and housebound (the decline in my health was also followed by the loss of my job, marriage and home). Thankfully, due to being referred to Dr Skinner, my thyroid treatment has been gradually optimised on an individual basis and I am overjoyed to have such a marked improvement in my wellbeing and to be in the position to pursue my career.

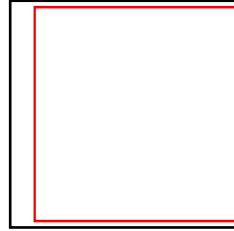
I can no longer take the standard NHS thyroid treatment, it is essential for me to take Armour Thyroid on a daily basis for the rest of my life. I obtain my Armour Thyroid prescriptions from Dr Skinner and this medication is imported from the United States of America [fully approved by the Federal Drugs Agency of the USA]. I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr Skinner and believe that Dr Skinner is one of the most brilliant doctors in the world.



Yours sincerely,



c.c. Dr G R B Skinner



Dear Ms. Collins,

I am writing to express my support for the important and life changing work that Dr. Skinner does for his patients. I have been in Dr. Skinners care for almost [redacted], with some improvement and hope for more in the future.

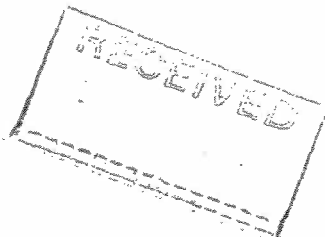
Sadly my G.P was happy to leave me with no diagnosis and to struggle with little support. When I first visited Dr. Skinner it was a struggle [redacted]

[redacted] I am now able to manage 12 hours at work, following his treatment suggestions.

Without his support and treatment I do not know how the [redacted] would have gone but with his help my health has improved and I have a life back.

Yours Sincerely

[redacted]



17th June 2007

Home Tel:
Mobile:
E-mail:



Ms P Collins
Investigations Officer
General Medical Council
5th floor
St James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
MANCHESTER
M1 6FQ

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Dear Ms Collins

FITNESS TO PRACTICE PANEL - MANCHESTER 2.7.2007

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF DR. G.R.B. SKINNER FROM [REDACTED] (A PATIENT)

I am a patient that has been under the care of Dr Gordon Skinner since [REDACTED] in conjunction with my two General Practitioners over the period. I have an underactive thyroid.

Summary

- Following unsuccessful attempts to obtain appropriate treatment for an underactive thyroid from others, I am feeling very much better under Dr Skinner's care.
- I have found Dr Skinner to be very professional and attentive to my changing symptoms and willing to try a number of treatments to find one that works for me.
- It is Dr Skinner's persistence that has enabled me to continue to hold down a responsible job.
- I believe that Dr Skinner has kept my GP's fully informed of my consultations and treatment.
- I will be very dismayed if I, and others, are prevented from being able to consult Dr Skinner.

Background

I have suffered ill health over many years [REDACTED]

Fitness to Practice Panel - Dr Gordon RB Skinner - 2.7.2007

Letter from [redacted] (patient) dated 17.6.2007 - in support of Dr Skinner

Strangely, the NHS blood tests at that time showed a normal result, whilst two independent private laboratories showed a definite underactive thyroid. I have never received a satisfactory explanation for this, but it is clear that the two private laboratories were correct.

Treatment under Dr Skinner

[redacted] with worsening symptoms and therefore difficulties coping at work, I sought a referral for a second opinion from another practitioner specialising in the treatment of thyroid conditions. I am very pleased that I was referred to Dr Gordon Skinner, at that time in [redacted]. I have had a number of consultations since and have found Dr Skinner to -

- be very professional and thorough in his examinations.
- have excellent patient / doctor interaction.
- be searching in his questions concerning my changing symptoms presented before and after treatment.
- have used the results of blood tests and his examinations to determine successful adjustments to treatment.
- have made extensive notes on my condition during the consultation.
- have written to my general practitioners to keep them in the picture and to request prescription modifications.

Dr Skinner has very patiently treated me over the last [redacted] years. I am now reduced to annual consultations, as I have for some time now been stable with his ongoing recommendation to my GP to keep prescribing me [redacted] mcg of Thyroxine (T4) and [redacted] mcg of Liothyronine (T3) per day ([redacted]). On this level of medication, my undesirable symptoms have all but disappeared.

My current GP recognises that I have an underactive thyroid and prescribes what has been recommended by Dr Skinner. My GP also conducts his own annual review to satisfy his own duties towards me.

Without Dr Skinner's persistence and willingness to try various solutions, I believe that I would not be still holding down a job. Whilst my health problems are not completely resolved, I feel so much better since being fortunate enough to come under Dr Skinner's care and recommendations.

I am now seeing Dr Skinner in his [redacted] consulting room and I feel that the round trip of [redacted] hours to be very worthwhile. His patients are very fortunate that he is prepared to hold consultations at a weekend, recognising the difficulties and stress that absences from work can cause.

[redacted]
[redacted] I am pleased that my current NHS GP fully recognises the fact that I have an underactive thyroid.

I would be very dismayed if Dr Skinner were not able to continue to help me, and those in a similar position as me.

Yours faithfully

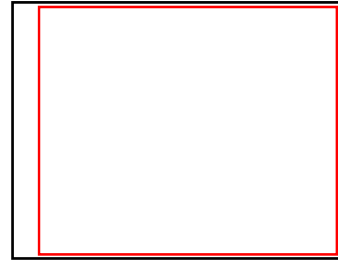
[redacted]

[redacted]

cc Dr G R B Skinner, [redacted]

cc Mr R Shipway, RadcliffesLeBrasseur,
5 Great College St, London SW1P 3SJ

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13 June 2007

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor, At James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins,

Dr Gordon R B Skinner MD (Hons) DSc FRCPath FRCOG
Patient: Susan Kerr Coughtrie DoB: 21-05-1985 - University Student

I am writing to you with reference to the GMC Fitness to Practice hearing regarding Dr Skinner. My daughter, [redacted] has consulted Dr Skinner since [redacted] following a referral by our local GP.

Through [redacted] my daughter attended the paediatric department at [redacted] Hospital, suffering from a number of symptoms, [redacted]. Despite a number of appointments and tests no satisfactory explanation was offered and [redacted] no treatment was given. She continued to see our local GPs and have blood tests. During [redacted], [redacted] continued to see specialists at [redacted] and undertake a number of tests with no positive outcome.

However, as the symptoms continued, we took her to see a specialist in [redacted] and she was diagnosed with an under-active thyroid. She was prescribed Armour thyroid extract, which had a beneficial effect.

My wife and I accompanied [redacted] at the first consultation with Dr Skinner and on some subsequent occasions. Our impression was one of complete and thorough professionalism: he considered [redacted]'s medical background, asking questions regarding her physical and psychological health and conducting a physical examination. His diagnosis confirmed hypothyroidism and he explained both the symptoms and actions of the medication, including possible side effects. [redacted] in discussion with us and based on the various consultations and advice received to date, decided to continue with the Armour thyroid treatment. She feels that she has benefited and that this has helped her maintain a normal lifestyle.

During the period that she has consulted Dr Skinner, she has continued to have regular blood tests, which have been sent to Dr Skinner as well as her local GP in London. We have spoken to Dr Skinner on the telephone regarding these results and he has also been in touch with the GP regarding prescription levels.

In our view, Dr Skinner has acted in a professional manner throughout the time that [redacted] has been consulting with him. [redacted] is happy with the treatment and in the benefits that the Armour thyroid has brought to her general well being. She has also had periods when the dosage has been lessened and in one case completely stopped as a check. All this has been during a busy and important period of her life when the support and treatment provided by Dr Skinner has been important. [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

CC: Dr G R B Skinner; Mr R Shipway

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am writing on behalf of Dr Gordon Skinner

I told Dr Skinner I had been diagnosed with
Thyroid Disease many years ago.

[REDACTED]

AND I HAVE HAD TO SUFFER ALL
THESE YEARS

BECAUSE MY BLOOD TESTS FOR THYROID
ALWAYS CAME BACK
NORMAL

[REDACTED]

So I AM ANGRY VERY ANGRY
Dr SKINNER
Has given me
LIGHT AT THE END OF TUNNEL

GOOD LUCK TO HIM
WE NEED MORE OF THIS MAN.
ETERNALLY GRATEFUL PATIENT
GOOD LUCK TO HIM.

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19th June 2007

To whom it may concern,

Letter in Support of Dr. Gordon Skinner

I have been a patient of Dr. Skinner for around years.
When I first met him I had been treated,

although the
medication did not work and did not alleviate my symptoms.

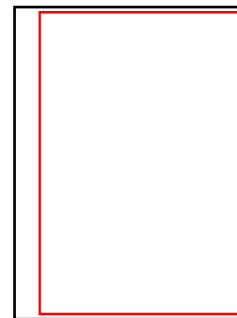
I have been
successfully returned to optimum health,

I am extremely happy with the level of care and
professionalism exercised by Dr. Skinner and I hope
that he can continue to practice. I have not experienced
any ill effects as a result of his treatment.

Regards,



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20.06.07

Ms P Collins – Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor St James' Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins

RE: Dr G.R.B Skinner – Fitness to Practice hearing

I have recently discovered, following an appointment with Dr Skinner, that he is to face a Fitness to Practice hearing on July 2nd this year.

Quite frankly, I am astounded. I have been under Dr Skinner's care for just short of years and in that time I cannot begin to describe the change in my life and health.

I knew that I was not well. I was as far from that state as is possible whilst still able to function (barely). I'd had various checks – all to no avail. I had a previous diagnosis of . At I basically had no life.

I came to Dr Skinner by chance. And what a fortuitous chance that was. Within months, I was functioning again. And now my life bears no comparison to the existence to which I was clinging back in .

My treatment under Dr Skinner has been exemplary.

 I have seldom seen his like. His attention to detail – the detail of my life and condition – has been second to none.

Dr Skinner puts his patients first. In his waiting room, I have met countless people who have been helped. A year ago, in my shop, a customer started telling me about this marvellous doctor she was seeing – Dr Skinner. It is clear that he has helped so many people like me over the years.

It is unthinkable that a man of such skill, wisdom and compassion should be called to task for helping and healing so many.

I can only hope that the GMC will see this and act accordingly. I add my voice to that of the many other people who have written in support of Dr Skinner and hope that these testimonials bear some weight in this case.

Yours sincerely



Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
GMC
5th Floor
St. James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ

20 June, 2007

Dear Ms Collins

Fitness to practice hearing – Doctor Gordon R.B. Skinner

I am writing regarding the above in support of Dr Skinner to strongly protest against such a hearing.

As a patient of Dr Skinner for the past months I have received only excellent professional careful considered and very effective treatment from him.

my GP tested my thyroid and said I was normal/borderline but that I did not require any treatment

At the time I suffered from the following symptoms many of which I later found out can be symptoms of an under active thyroid:

After a visit to Doctor Skinner and various tests he diagnosed an under active thyroid and has since prescribed a very gradually increasing dose of thyroxine. As a result of his treatment 90% of the above symptoms have now disappeared (many of which I had had for years) and I am now able to work full-time There have been no side effects of the thyroxine treatment. My quality of life has improved beyond measure and I now have the energy and strength for the first time in years to be able to live a normal life.

I rely on Doctor Skinner's ongoing evaluation and support. Although my GP has commented on my considerable physical improvements and has now offered to prescribe thyroxine I would be concerned about being treated by a GP with limited experience in this area (as my dosage is still being fine tuned to eliminate the remaining 10% of my symptoms).

Yours sincerely

Ccs – Dr GRB Skinner, Mr R Shipway, Paul Keetch MP

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[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Ms Patricia Collins
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practice Directorate
General Medical Council
5th Floor St James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ

[Redacted]
20th June 2007

Re Dr. Gordon R B Skinner - Fitness to Practice 2nd July

Dear Ms. Collins,

I wish to submit two comments to the Fitness to Practice panel:-

"took inadequate history, gave inadequate examination"

The diary entry for the FTP hearing states "The Panel will inquire into the allegation that Dr Skinner took inadequate history, gave inadequate examination...". Prior to my first consultation with Dr. Skinner I was asked to provide full details of my GP and all specialists I had seen in recent years along with copies of any thyroid or other blood tests. I was also asked to fill in a multi-page questionnaire covering all aspects of my health. During a very detailed consultation Dr. Skinner took further bloods along with examinations of my heartbeat, blood pressure, pulse, thyroid gland, hair and skin along with lots of questions. It was a most careful and comprehensive consultation conducted with commendable observation skills.

I ask the panel to note that some of those alleging inadequate examination have done so whilst themselves failing to examine the patients concerned.

A Pernicious Crusade Masquerading as Independent Complaints to the GMC

A small group of activists have for a number of years used the BTA (British Thyroid Association - formerly "The Thyroid Club") as a vehicle to campaign against physicians who give clinical observation and thyroid function tests equal precedence. They assert the blood test must overrule the clinical presentation. This group includes doctors Tony Toft, John Lazarus, Tony Weetman and Malcolm Prentice.

This association is evidenced in the transcript of the Wednesday 29th June 2005 Interim Orders Panel, on page five Dr. Prentice says:-

"Finally, as a former secretary to the British Thyroid Association I was involved with the British Thyroid Association in trying to counteract a number of private practitioners who called themselves endocrinologists but did not in fact have higher medical qualifications in endocrinology who took it upon themselves to start patients on Thyroxine in spite of normal thyroid function tests....."

Dr. Skinner, of course, has never claimed to be an endocrinologist, it is ignoble to suggest he might have.

On page nine a quote from Dr. Toft reveals cognisance of the as yet unpublished allegations:- "I understand that you may already have received complaints.....".

This group have not only used the GMC to attack Dr. Skinner, the same names crop up again and again in other cases. They have had ample opportunity to discuss their concerns with Dr. Skinner. Indeed a few years ago they even received personal invitations to do so! They assert one cannot be hypothyroid with a "normal" thyroid function test, but refuse to test this proposition.

A Medline search reveals that between them Toft, Lazarus and Weetman have published over 400 papers on thyroid disorders. Clearly they have considerable access to research funding yet they decline to study the issues raised in this case. This is not for want of prompting, in a rapid response to Dr. Toft's "psychosocial reasons" paper¹ I stated I was hypothyroid with a perfectly normal thyroid profile and stressed the need for further research "There is a need for effective research; this so far amounts to one small trial led by a GP, endocrinologists have failed to accept the challenge. Until there is better knowledge, treat the patient not the numbers.". In his response to Dr. Toft written on 8th January 2004 Dr. Skinner wrote "I seek advice from colleagues on the advisability of long term high dosage thyroid replacement..." and concludes "It is suggested that the efficacy and safety of higher dosage thyroid replacement be subjected to the scrutiny of formal clinical trial.". Dr. Toft's letter of complaint to the GMC is dated 19th July 2004.

Invoking the GMC disciplinary procedures in this case is unethical, creates great anxiety and harms patients. I formally request that following the FTP hearing the GMC investigates the actions of Toft, Lazarus and Prentice with a view to taking definitive action.

Thank-you very much for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours faithfully,

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1. Toft AD, Beckett GJ. Thyroid function tests and hypothyroidism. BMJ. 2003 Feb 8;326(7384):295-6.

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MON 18 June
2007

Dear Ms. P. Collins,

I understand Dr. Gordon Skinner has 'fitness to practise' hearing on 2nd July 2007. I am one of Dr Skinner's patients, I beg you to read this letter and try to understand how important Dr. Skinner has been to me and still is.

In my opinion without his diagnosis and treatment, my lifelong symptoms and illnesses would never have been treated. I follow the hereditary path of my mother and paternal grandmother, both had hypothyroidism for many, many years, without treatment, and were very ill.

I am still following a path to recovery with Dr. Skinner's help, I trust him and support him 100%.

Please allow him to continue his pioneering work and allow myself and many others, a light at the end of the tunnel and a way forward to a normal life that we have a right to. My G.P.'s could not do this and I lost everything.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature box]

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Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6FQ

18th June 2007

Dear Ms Collins

Re: Dr Skinner – Fitness to practice trial

Patient –

I am writing this letter in total support of the treatment I have received for an under active thyroid, I have been under the care of Dr Skinner during the last

Dr Skinner possesses a great knowledge in the thyroid arena, I have the up-most respect for his medical standing and a total trust within the care received. It is this medical care & supervision received that has given me the joy of life back, of which was lacking prior to the referral & care under Dr Skinner.

My family has a history of thyroid problems, my youngest daughter was diagnosed in with an over active thyroid and was subsequently put under the care of a consultant under . My daughter since diagnosis has only seen the actual consultant twice, and each time she has come away dissatisfied with the care & attention received. It was through my daughter's research into the Thyroid arena that led to the recommendation of Dr Skinner, and the subsequent referral by my general practitioner.

In my opinion Dr Skinner is the most professional & caring practitioner I have seen in a very long time, he has returned me to a level of health that I could only have previously dreamt of. Dr Skinner truly listened when I needed help most, I dread to think where I would be now if our paths had not crossed.

To conclude, I would have no hesitation in recommending Dr Skinner, and as you know recommendation is by far the best testimony that anyone can give. I simply do not understand why Dr Skinner is being forced to qualify his practice; he truly is an exceptional Doctor. Dr Skinner has put me back on the road to recovery, where other health professionals have failed me and I would not like anyone to suffer the way that I have over the years.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance in this matter.

Kindest regards

cc. Dr Skinner
Mr R Shipway

To Ms P. Collins,
Investigation Officer,
General Medical Council,
5th Floor, St James's Buildings,
79 Oxford Street,
Manchester,
M1 6FQ

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20th June 2007.

Dear Ms Collins

I am writing to you in support of Dr Gordon Skinner who is to attend a 'Fitness to Practice' hearing of the GMC on 2nd July. I am utterly shocked to find that this is to happen to Dr Skinner. I want you to know what he has done for me and how since being treated by him I have been able to have an active and happy life again.


I first became ill in [] and my doctors at the time although sympathetic could not work out what was wrong with me []. Later doctors were not so kind and basically gave up on me. []. I was lucky enough to be cared for by friends and I shudder to think what would have happened with to me trying to exist in my condition with only the barest of benefits to survive on. After a number of years I slowly got my strength back but there ever after had to be extremely careful to not 'overdo' things. I [] was [].

In the [] I was heading for another relapse. My partner was also becoming ill [] and was diagnosed with a serious thyroid condition. When she asked her GP about it she was recommended onto the internet for more information. In her research she found the answers she needed about her own condition but she also recognised my condition to be remarkably similar in terms of many of my symptoms. We then found a web site called Best Doctors for Thyroid Treatment - a patient advocacy site - and so I found myself making an appointment to see Dr Skinner who was recommended by many patients.

The rest as they say is 'history'! Dr Skinner enabled me to get back to being healthy and alive again. There are many reasons why this case against him is ridiculous. He is simply the best Dr I have ever seen and I've seen a few! Firstly he listens, and I mean really listens. After an hour with him I felt that for the first time someone had taken the time and energy to actually understand my symptoms. He is always kind and never patronising. I have always felt that we work together to find the best outcomes. He will take time to explain things and to discuss anything I want to bring up that's relevant to my condition. When I first saw him I was in despair about ever being well again and he has never given up on finding the best way forward for me treatment-wise. The result of having been under his care for the last [] years is that I am now properly well.

So I believe that I am living proof of Dr Skinner's fitness to practice. I can't believe that an institution such as the BMA should conduct such a hearing against Dr Skinner when I know that there are hundreds of patients like myself writing in to you to say that he is simply the best! As far as I am concerned I would like to see this case against him simply dropped, and I sincerely hope that this will be the outcome.

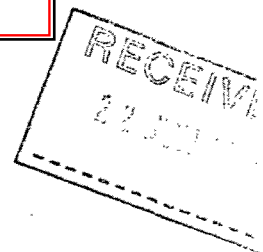
Yours sincerely

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

COPY

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer, GMC
5th Floor, St James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ

19 June 2007



Dear Ms Collins,

GMC HEARING - DR G R B SKINNER

As one of Dr Skinner's patients, it is distressing for me to learn of the above hearing,

I owe my physical and mental health and wellbeing to Dr Skinner's excellent care and medical skills, and I feel it is only fair to provide an illustration by briefly recounting my experience:

Many years of being inexplicably unwell were worsened in [redacted]
[redacted], My GP said, "borderline underactive thyroid" but offered no treatment. My condition got worse. I persisted in seeking treatment, and travelled around the NHS referral system over many months in a frightened and confused state. The culmination of this process was being told by a consultant endocrinologist that I was not hypothyroid and to [redacted]
[redacted]

Quite by accident I found out about Dr Skinner's clinic and was referred by my GP.

At the [redacted] clinic I was treated with courtesy and understanding, listened to, and a detailed medical history was written. It was the first time that I felt my illness was taken seriously and the first time that I was offered hope that my condition could be treated.

I was put on a carefully-monitored and graduated dosage system of Armour Thyroid tablets that even I, with my tendency to anxiety, was able to cope with. At all times I felt supported and cared for through Dr Skinner's clinic.

Dr Skinner tried prescribing Thyroxine so that treatment could be managed by my GP (and be more affordable for me) but Thyroxine did not work, so I returned to Armour Thyroid and soon felt better.

My health continued to improve and has remained excellent

[redacted]

It is not just on my own account that I am indebted to Dr Skinner. It was his sympathetic and careful treatment which transformed my daughter [redacted]

[redacted] into an energetic, confident young woman who went on

...2...

[Redacted]

Experience has shown that I can trust Dr Skinner's judgement beyond any other doctor I have met. The other doctors did not seem to have expertise in relation to hypothyroidism. They just looked at blood tests but not at the person or the symptoms being suffered.

Every so often, I stop and think of the good fortune which enabled me to get treatment from Dr Skinner and to be able to entrust my daughter's health to his care.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

cc: Dr G R B Skinner
Mr R Shipway

[redacted]

Ms P Collins - Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor, St James' Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6FQ

22nd June 2007

Dear Ms Collins,

Dr G.R.B Skinner – Fitness to Practice hearing

I have been informed by a friend of long standing that Dr Skinner is to be investigated regarding his fitness to practice. I am shocked and disbelieving that this is the case, he is one of the most professional, considerate and honest men I have ever met, not to mention medical practitioners.

I retired from my [redacted] career in [redacted] at the age of [redacted] after a year on sick leave with an unidentified ailment that my GP wished to categorise as [redacted]

[redacted]

I heard of Dr Skinner from a friend who had a relative successfully treated by him and she was seeing him herself. My symptoms matched hers and her sisters and also tallied with various lists I found on the internet. I was persuaded to see Dr Skinner. He started me on a low dose of Thyroxin and, very soon, I

[redacted]

As my treatment progressed I felt more and more fit. Sometimes I was not noticing change and feeling [redacted] I would be advised to modify my medication while guided by Dr Skinner, I am now taking a combination of Levothyroxine, Tertroxin and Armour Thyroid which suits me perfectly, my energy levels are acceptable for my age, [redacted] and I would describe myself as in perfect health. My treatment was delegated to my GP in [redacted] and is still going satisfactorily with no need for any changes.

My Thyroxin levels were within normal ranges but on the low side when I first saw Dr Skinner, I understand that this is a common feature of people [redacted] I also understand that treatment with Thyroid supplementation is successful in most of these instances. I used to have a great many apparently unrelated ailments, all causing considerable discomfort and anxiety, now I have none. I gather that I am by no means alone in this. I have my life back; from turning quite suddenly into a [redacted] dull invalid at the age of [redacted] I am now a fit, healthy and energetic [redacted] year old. What a waste of [redacted] years!

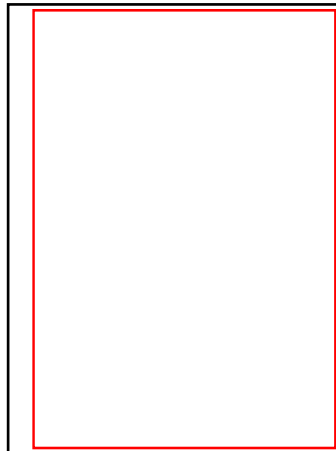
A doctor who has the insights, experience and wisdom to help many, many sick people back to active and productive life is worth his weight in gold. To slightly misquote, it is time this prophet was honoured in his own land.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

c.c. to Dr G R B Skinner, Mr R Shipway, RadcliffesLeBrasseur.

[redacted]



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20th June, 2007

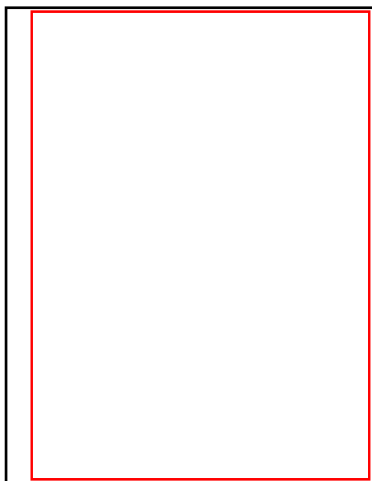
Dear Ms Collins

Re: Dr. Gordon Skinner
Fitness to Practise Hearing
2nd July, 2007

Treatment for hypothyroidism gave our mother a life and gave us back our 'real' mother.

The GMC must give consideration to this when deciding Dr. Skinner's future.

Yours sincerely,





Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6FG

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Cc: Dr Skinner
Mr R Shipway

18 June, 2007

Dear Ms Collins

Re: Letter of Support for Dr Gordon Skinner

I am writing to you to express my support for Dr Skinner for whom I believe you are holding a Fitness to Practice hearing on July 2nd.

In [redacted], I first saw Dr Skinner for a private consultation. In [redacted], I [redacted] sadly had to give up working in the same month due to poor health. During my first consultation with Dr Skinner, he asked me many detailed questions about my clinical symptoms and from this suspected that I had an under-active thyroid. However, he wanted me to have a thyroid blood test before prescribing me a trial treatment of armour thyroid. My blood tests were just within the normal range, T4:11, I believe, but we both agreed it was worth me trying a trial of armour thyroid as I presented many clinical symptoms associated with an under-active thyroid and my blood test results were, as stated, although in the normal range were just above being classed as low.

Dr Skinner prescribed me a very short dose to begin with and we very gradually

increased the dose [redacted]. I could always contact Dr Skinner by phone if I needed to at no extra charge and at no point did Dr Skinner pressure me to take the treatment. By the end of [redacted], my health improved significantly. I [redacted]

[redacted] still unfortunately have health problems, but I believe without Dr Skinner's support and diagnosing an under-active thyroid my health and quality of life would be even worse. I am now seeing a consultant at my local hospital who also now prescribes me low dose steroids as blood tests revealed I suffer

[redacted]

Dr Skinner also diagnosed my mum with an under-active thyroid who now receives thyroid treatment via the NHS and whose health improved accordingly after being on thyroid treatment initially prescribed by Dr Skinner. He also had a consultation with my father [redacted], however, Dr Skinner chose not to prescribe thyroid treatment to my father.

I have always found Dr Skinner a professional, friendly and kind man who spends time with his patients and listens to what they are telling him. I believe Dr Skinner places his patients interests as his first priority and helps many people regain their health.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address at the top of the letter.

Many thanks for your time.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I would very much like to write to you in support of Dr Skinner.

Following [redacted] my health rapidly declined. I was just [redacted] years old and continued [redacted] + bringing up my [redacted] year old son. In spite of visits to many doctors over an [redacted] year period, in [redacted] I was finally diagnosed as severely hypothyroid. My thyroid gland had stopped working + my T.S.H level was, + still is [redacted]. I was put on [redacted] mg of Thyroxine by my G.P in [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

It was after this serious episode that I was put in touch with Dr Skinner who went to great pains to both reassure and help + support me. He added a small dose of [redacted] mg of T3 to my T4 [redacted] mg dose and I vastly improved + returned to [redacted] fit and well.

Since [] I have gone regularly
up to [] to consult with
Dr Skinner. I really have nothing but
the highest praise and regard for him
as a really caring, supportive doctor
and a wonderful human being.

So I can only commend him to you
wholeheartedly and trust that all will
go well for him,

Yours Sincerely,

[]

[]

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20.6.07

For ATT. Ms. P. COLLINS G. M.C.

Mr R SHIPWAY WESTMINSTER.

I am writing to support a very fine
Dr Skinner, thanks to him and with the help
of an excellent G.P. who agreed for me to see
Dr Skinner in the first place [redacted] years ago.
And a second visit in [redacted] I enjoy a
full and active life.

Having spent years and vast sums of
Money visiting consultants some very
arrogant; being tested for just about everything
to I was not a mad stupid woman, I just
needed help.

Help came in a article in the Daily
Telegraph about Diana Holmes and Dr Skinner
her consultant, Diana + Sylvia means a free
outstanding advice line, Sylvia was my life line.

my Doctor has referred other patients, since.

on my first visit, Dr Skinner confirmed I had an underactive thyroid, listening to my symptoms and my blood test results, and had for many years.

The fitness to practice hearing should never be taking place, Dr Skinner is a fine Doctor who goes along with symptoms as well as blood tests, a true professional long may he be allowed to practice, there are thousands of patients living active lives thanks to him.

Give this man a medal and his advice team Diana Holmes and Sylvia Hullah not a hearing.

This is just a witch hunt, and a waste of time and money, this is 2007 not the middle ages, if Dr Skinner loses his case, no Doctor will be safe to prescribe thyroxine.

Yours Sincerely,

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**General Medical Council,
5th Floor,
St James Buildings,
79, Oxford Street,
Manchester
M1 6FQ**

19/06/2007

Attention of Ms P Collins-Investigating Officer

Dear Ms Collins,

Reference Gordon R B Skinner

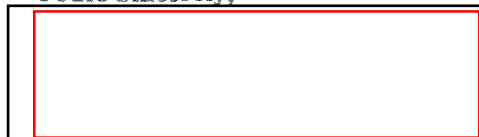
I am writing in support of Dr Gordon Skinner and am astounded he is to appear before the General Medical Council for a Fitness to Practice hearing on 2nd July 2007.

I am ☐ years old and have been taking ☐mcg Thyroxine for the last ☐ years prescribed by Dr Skinner with no adverse effects whatsoever.

I feel, if it was not for Dr Skinner, I might not be alive today. I felt so ill for at least ☐ years, (prior to taking this medication) with many of the symptoms of Hypothyroidism but with a "normal" blood test reading.

Please listen to the many of Dr Skinner patients, who feel as strongly as me on this subject-this man should be applauded from the highest mountain -not castigated.

Yours Sincerely,



Copy: Dr Skinner
Copy: Mr R Shipway

18 June 2007

Ms Patricia Collins
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St James Buildings
79 Oxford St
Manchester
M1 6FQ

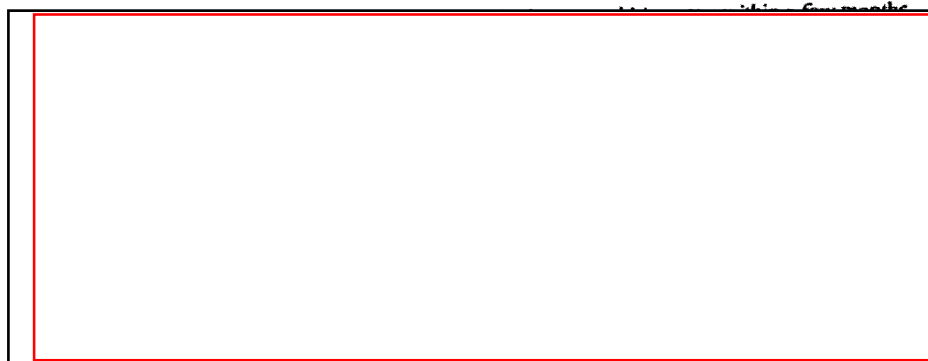


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Dear Ms Collins,

I understand that Dr Gordon Skinner is due to appear before a Fitness to Practise Hearing on the 2nd July 2007, an action that I feel is totally and utterly unjustified and without doubt, an absolute travesty of justice. I cannot express highly enough how appalled I am to learn that this hearing is to go ahead with, I feel, absolutely no justifiable grounds and I would like to write to you today in support of Dr Skinner.

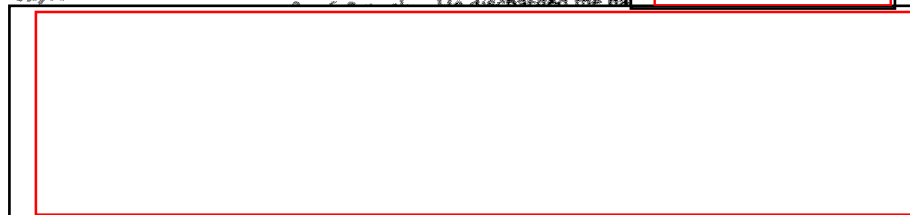
[redacted] Following the operation, I progressively went on to experience a number of different symptoms never experienced before, [redacted].



Another [redacted] years passed feeling just as awful and I continued with the blood tests at the new GP surgery, where again they continued to advise all my bloods tests were normal. [redacted] why was I being told everything was fine, yet I felt absolutely awful.

Then in the [redacted], I heard about Dr Gordon Skinner, I asked my GP whether she would refer me to see him. This she agreed to do, then for the first time in [redacted] years, after a lengthy consultation (over an hour), Dr Skinner first and only doctor I had seen, who went through my whole medical history, thoroughly and armed with this, including previous and new blood test results he diagnosed, what to him he said, was quite obviously an hypothyroidism.

Thyroxine was advised, at a dose of [redacted] μ g, increasing to [redacted]. He discharged me back [redacted].



[redacted]
[redacted] I eventually contacted Dr Skinner again and made arrangements to go and see him again.

So in March 2000, four years following the commencement of Thyroxine to my immense relief, Dr Skinner acknowledged immediately that the problem I was having was to do with the conversion process from non-active (T4) to active (T3) thyroid hormone. This was most likely to be as a result of my body lacking thyroid hormone for over [redacted] years, [redacted] then now have the T4 synthetic in abundance, my body had become lazy and unable to utilise it properly. Hence, why I went on to feel so unwell. It was at this stage I was prescribed Armour Thyroid. Then, for the first time in over [redacted] years gradually within the next [redacted] months my life was completely transformed, every symptom gradually disappeared and for the first time since my operation back in [redacted] I actually felt my old self again.

I cannot express strongly enough how Dr Skinner to me has been my saviour. Without his expert help, knowledge and understanding, I dread to think what sort of life I would be leading today. He gave me back my life. [redacted]

I WAS FAILED MISERABLY BY THE NHS. LET DOWN BIG TIME. How anybody could have the audacity to question or criticise the integrity and ability of Dr Gordon Skinner, as a doctor is beyond belief. As far as I am concerned, many doctors would do well to take a leaf out of Dr Skinner's book.

All the doctors that I have consulted, with the exception of Dr Skinner, were more concerned about the limit of the time they had, so in acquiring blood results that came back stamped 'NORMAL' (whatever normal is, bear in mind that we are all supposed to be individuals and vary greatly as individuals) this has been a convenient cop out on their behalf, because it permits them to discharge a person regardless of how unwell you are feeling, without the fear of litigation. This is a complete disgrace and totally against what the Hippocratic Oath is meant to be. [redacted]

[redacted]

Can I highlight too, what was pointed out by Dr Skinner and totally disregarded by every other medical practitioner I saw. Having undergone the operation in [redacted] when half my thyroid gland was removed. Prior to this operation, I felt perfectly fit and well and only post-operatively, every symptom suffered could be contributed to an underactive thyroid condition. There are many patients out there with hypothyroidism, whose thyroids have just failed. My condition was highlighted by the fact that prior to the surgery, I felt perfectly fit and well. Why could no other doctor, apart from Dr Skinner acknowledge that there was probably a connection here.

Any adverse decision made about Dr Skinner, would be a complete travesty of justice. Dr Skinner should never have been brought before the GMC, if for any reason the decision goes against Dr Skinner on the 2nd July, then I will be sure in the knowledge that the GMC is nothing but a kangaroo court and not worthy of the respect of anyone and in the [redacted] years since I was properly diagnosed, nothing actually has changed.

I have lost count over the years since my condition was diagnosed of the individuals who continue to complain of low thyroid symptoms, because their blood tests have been 'within the normal range', be it at the bottom end of the scale, which is exactly what happened to me in [redacted] [redacted] years ago, nothing has changed.

If certain doctors today went back to the old school and took more consideration of clinical presentation, using blood test results as guidance, not as a definitive diagnosis, I have absolutely no doubt whatsoever, from my own experiences, many thousands of individuals in the UK today, would regain their former good health and if certain doctors took their heads out of their own backsides, spent more time in consideration of true patient care, instead of feeding their own over inflated egos, by treating their patients as individuals, with the respect they deserve, and less time creating what appears to be nothing but a witch hunt, simply to destroy Dr Skinner's good name for their own gratification.

I thought the GMC was in place also for the benefit of the patient. What is this country coming to when a doctor who time and time again, dedicates his work to true patient care, and who has been able to restore the health of many thousands of individuals, who having consulted him, and many of whom were bitterly failed by the same individuals now hauling Dr Skinner before the GMC. This is both disgraceful and appalling.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

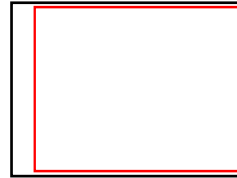
c.c. Dr Aftsan Ahmad

[Redacted]

c.c. Mr Ralph Shipway
Radcliffes Le Brasseur
5 Great College Street
Westminster
London. SW1P 3SJ

c.c. Dr Mark Dudley
MPS
33 Cavendish Square
London. W1G OPS

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor, St James Building
79 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ



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Dr Gordon R B Skinner – Fitness To Practise Hearing

Dear Ms Collins

RE the above on 2nd July, I would like to formally acknowledge my support for Dr Skinner and the work he does.

I am a current patient of Doctor Skinner's and feel he listens to my issues and has helped me get my life back on track.

I am years old and over the past years I have felt a steady decline in my energy levels.

I visited my local GP Surgery several times and had numerous blood tests and was given a range of diagnoses from

I had the will but not the power to live life as I had. I believe this condition is hard to imagine unless you have experienced it.

I began my own research into my list of symptoms and each time came up with "Hypothyroid" – when reading about this condition it was like reading about me. I returned to my doctor who re-visited my blood tests and again was told it was normal. I was really upset as I knew my body and knew it was breaking down.

By the summer of I found myself in tears several times due to frustration that my body couldn't function. I visited my GP and asked for a referral to Dr Skinner. I had an appointment for and brought along my blood test results. However it also transpired that throughout my blood tests my T4 had not been tested.

I had been keeping a diary and had listed in it my symptoms so I would not forget.

Dr Skinner agreed that I had classic hypothyroid symptoms and some of the items I had listed as feelings e.g. [redacted] – I came to find were actually symptoms too and could be treated.

I started on a course of Armour (I felt as this was a natural substance I would feel more comfortable with it).

It is now [redacted] months into my treatment and I feel my life is returning [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] I feel I am still recovering and have a long way to go, but I am so grateful to Dr Skinner for listening to me and giving me this chance.

I cannot understand why this action would have been taken. There are countless journals and medical books on this traditional approach and why would so many signs/symptoms be disregarded for a blood test? I feel it is Big Brother gone mad and even though people may not have a doctorate in medicine – why should they not know their own body best?

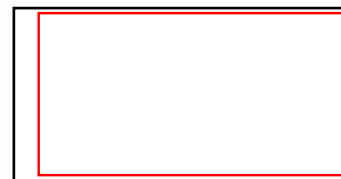
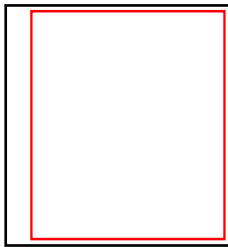
I know that this is the correct treatment for me as I am getting better by the day, however if Dr Skinner's services are removed then who can help those people like me

[redacted]
[redacted] I find it oddly coincidental that since the blood test theory has been used by GP's to diagnose Thyroid problems that there has been a steady increase in the national statistics for depression.

On this note, I implore you listen to the patient and see the results for what they are allow Dr Skinner to continue to help people and restore their lives.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]



18th June 2007

Ms P Collins,
Investigation Officer,
General Medical Council,
5th Floor, St. James Buildings,
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Dear Ms Collins

I am writing to you with reference to the 'Fitness to Practise' hearing being held on 2nd July 2007, with regard to Dr. G R B Skinner.

In all my dealings with Dr. Skinner, I have found him to be always very professional, caring and straightforward. He has given me a lot of time to discuss my Thyroid related problems, and the unbelievable symptoms that I was experiencing. He is always contactable and willing to listen and give advice and direction.

My own doctor, GP Dr. [redacted] from [redacted] had no idea of the major and dramatic effects that were being caused by my taking Levothyroxine under his guidance, for my Hypothyroidism and neither did I, he even diagnosed me to be [redacted] whilst he obviously had no full understanding of Hypothyroidism.

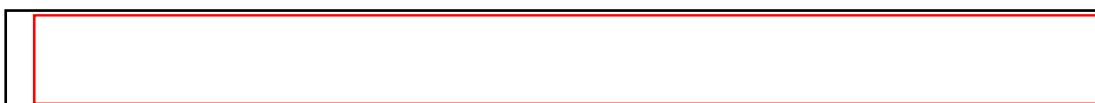
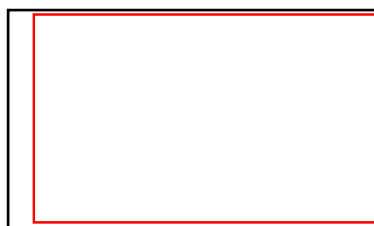
I was then so anxious to find a real cure and a full understanding to my symptoms, I was then forced to seek a proper professional expert, hence I met Dr. Skinner, to investigate and find a solution.

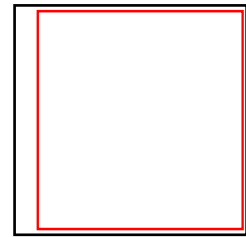
Dr. Skinner recognised all these symptoms of typical Hypothyroidism and diagnosed that I was unable to convert the synthetic Levothyroxine into what my body required, and then commenced the hormonal Armour Thyroid, this very quickly improved my quality of life. This was what my own GP, (who has been consulted on every visit to Dr. Skinner), states he is unable to prescribe? This sadly leaves me with very little confidence in the ability of the General Medical profession and I therefore find it extremely sad that I had to endeavour to find the expertise of a professional like Dr. Skinner to investigate and solve this common medical condition.

I therefore have little understanding of how the General Medical Council can be so oblivious and mis-informed of Dr Skinner's professional & personal skills and vast knowledge of Hypothyroidism, with his skill he should be teaching the Medical Council's own GP's about the effects and cures of Hypothyroidism, hence making our own GP's fit to practice.

Dr. Gordon Skinner has given me guidance and help in understanding my symptoms. He has turned my life around from being a rather sick person, and I am now living a normal life, thanks to his skill and dedication to his profession, I shall be eternally grateful.

Yours sincerely





22/06/2007

Re: Letters of support for Dr Skinner

To Ms Collins,

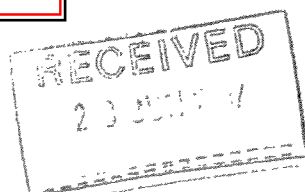
I have been a patient of Dr Skinners for the past [] years having been referred to him by a consultant from [] Hospital. My own GP was only willing to prescribe me [] for my condition which included extreme [] to name but a few. Even though my thyroid levels fell within the " normal" range, I had every other possible symptom of hypothyroidism which Dr Skinner immediately recognised and I began my treatment with thyroxin and tertroxine.

My GP told me it would have no effect whatsoever and tried once again to prescribe [] which I refused. Within a short time my energy levels returned and I made a full recovery and still feel fantastic. []

[] My GP has since apologised and has been pleased to follow my progress. This would not have been possible without the diagnosis and treatment from Dr Skinner. []

[] Dr Skinner has always been professional and ensured I kept him up to date with regular blood test results and letters. He has helped many patients and it would be a great loss if he were to be found guilty of misconduct. I totally support his practise and would be outraged if he were forced to close.

Yours Sincerely



FAO Adam Elliott
Interim Orders Panel
GMC
Regents Place
350 Euston Road
London
NW1 3JN

23rd June 2005

Dear Sirs

Re: Dr Gordon R B Skinner

Having been a patient of Dr Skinner's since [redacted] I am utterly amazed to hear of his forthcoming hearing with the GMC on the 29th June 2005.

From the Thyroid UK website and from having spoken to the GMC direct it appears that the allegations are for prescribing high/dangerous levels of medication and not consulting with his colleagues. We cannot comment on the second allegation but we certainly can on the first.

I am now a happy, confident, outgoing [redacted]-year-old woman with the rest of my life to look forward to as opposed to [redacted] when I first met Dr Skinner.

Up to [redacted] years or so ago my life was a bit of a mess, I had a number of symptoms that were investigated by one specialist after another. Whilst some of these problems were treated, physically I still felt there was something wrong and I was becoming more and more depressed.

Approximately [redacted] months before I first saw Dr Skinner, I had a Thyroid Function Test at my GP's surgery. The result was [redacted] which was within the NHS guidelines of TSH 0.35 – 2.75 and T4 7.0 – 17.0, and therefore 'within the normal range' and I was not considered to have a Thyroid problem.

[Large redacted area]

I am confused as to why the NHS and the private sector use a totally different set of parameters in blood tests to determine thyroid function, is it that the NHS use their set of figures to filter out many patients who could be considered to have a thyroid problem because the system could not cope.

My first meeting with Dr Skinner was one of total assurance. After a long consultation, discussions about my general health and submission of blood test results, he believed I was suffering from an under active thyroid. He started me off on a very low dosage of Armour Thyroid, [] grain, with a gradual increase in dosage, which was initially assessed every [] months. Over the years my thyroid medication was increased and thyroxine was also prescribed. Once my condition stabilised and I was feeling better than I had in years, my dosage has remained at the same level and in fact Dr Skinner has actively encouraged me to lower my level of medication.

It's ironic, that I heard of Dr Skinner from a [] friend [] who happens to also be a patient of his. She had struggled for a couple of years with her symptoms as she was shunted from one specialist to another including [] all of who came up with a different opinion as to what was wrong with her. On seeing Dr Skinner her health dramatically improved over the months, as my husband and her regularly discussed her condition.

Conclusion

My life is now balanced and I firmly believe it is due to Dr Skinner's treatment. His commitment to his patients and his understanding nature has helped me tremendously through this period. Should he decide, no matter what the outcome, because of these allegations to reappraise his future, his support would be greatly missed. Additionally, there would also be the problem of obtaining medication as according to the NHS none of his patients have a thyroid problem. Therefore, how can it be right that the GMC believe they have the patient's interests at heart if he is no longer there to serve them.

Yours faithfully

[]

[redacted]

[redacted]

23 June, 2007

General Medical Council
5th Floor, St James's Buildings
79, Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6F

Dear Ms P. Collins,

I would like to tell you how Dr.G.Skinner literally restored my health and strength, not once but twice, when no NHS doctor, whom I consulted, could.

I first became really ill in [redacted], although I hadn't been well for some years even before this.

[redacted]

[redacted] My GP told me [redacted] he was sorry but he couldn't do anything to help me. So for the next [redacted] years I coped as best I could but gradually became weaker and weaker until I reached the point where I felt I would have to give up even my part time job.

But in [redacted] my GP sent me for a thyroid function test.

I had a list of symptoms and signs as long as my arm, only some of which I list below, but, even when you have read it, you can have no idea how terribly ill I felt.

[redacted]



Even with this list of symptoms my GP could not diagnose hypothyroidism because my fT4 was And TSH was only which was declared "perfectly normal". The only trouble was that I didn't feel "perfectly normal", far from it! Even an endocrinologist at Hospital said that none of my symptoms had anything to do with hypothyroidism. However I accessed books on the thyroid and soon discovered that my numerous symptoms and signs had everything to do with my thyroid.

In one of the books I discovered Dr. Skinner's name and was able to contact him. I had to wait months for an appointment and they were the longest months of my life! But it was well worth the wait because Dr. Skinner diagnoses his patients by listening to their symptoms and observing the physical signs of hypothyroidism as well as taking into account the blood test results i.e. not by the blood test alone.

As I had been hypothyroid for so many years, he started me on Armour ^hTyroid tablets, because, in his experience, that sort of patient recovers better on the natural thyroid hormone. He explained that once my health was fully restored I could change over to the synthetic thyroxine tablets. This I did in and all my hypothyroid symptoms returned but I was encouraged to continue with the synthetic hormone. I did slowly begin to improve but never felt as well as I had on the Armour Thyroid tablets.



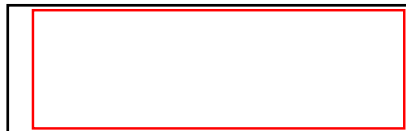
June 23, 2007



So I went to see Dr. Skinner again and he could see that my health had deteriorated quite badly and he agreed to treat me again with Armour Thyroid. Now, thanks to him, I am once again returning to good health and a life that is worth living. I dread to think what state I would be in now if I had not found Dr. Skinner.

The injustice of implying that this good and brave man, who has restored hundreds of people to health, is not fit to practice leaves me speechless with anger!

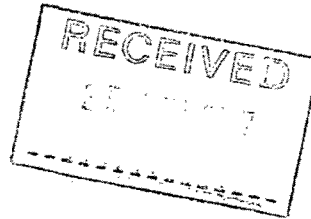
Yours sincerely



copy



Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
MANCHESTER
M1 6FQ



22nd June, 2007


Dear Ms Collins,

RE: Dr G R B Skinner & forthcoming hearing

I write in support of the above named doctor who has recently been treating me for low thyroid function.

I was desperate to find some relief from the symptoms I was experiencing and luckily I found out about Dr Skinner whilst researching my symptoms on the internet. I suspected thyroid problems might explain why I was feeling so lethargic as my mother also suffered from thyroid problems, but only when I arrived at Dr Skinner's surgery and completed his checklist of symptoms did I realise how many of the things I had been experiencing were related to thyroid dysfunction.

Thankfully, Dr Skinner listened carefully to me – something which is rare in a doctor these days due to the time pressure on GPs in their surgeries – he also did a blood test and since I have been taking the thyroid medication I have been steadily returning to my former self.

I cannot understand why a doctor such as Dr Skinner would be the subject of an investigation by the GMC. Dr Skinner is an exemplary role model in his 'patient manner' – he puts you at ease, listens really carefully and encourages you to be really honest about how you are feeling. I am about to return to my job  and I could not have done this without help from this doctor.

Yours sincerely,





23rd June 2007

Dear Ms Collins,

Re. Dr. Gordon Skinner

I am writing to you in order to lend support to Dr. Skinner who has a Fitness to Practice hearing on the 2nd July.

I was in very poor health when I first attended his clinic for treatment, but due to his understanding of the physical signs of Hypothyroidism together with the blood tests, he prescribed Armour thyroid.

My health started to improve within weeks.

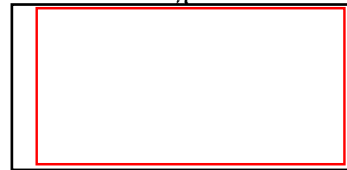
Dr. Skinner wrote to my G.P. at all times and kept him up-to-date with the treatment. I have a quarterly blood test and my G.P. supplies a copy of all the results which I send to Dr. Skinner.

I have had no problems with the Armour and am now stable and my physical signs are resolved.

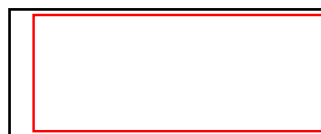
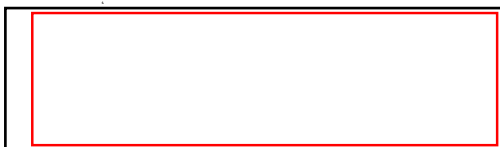
/over

I know that at all times if I need to discuss any problems with Dr. Skinner he is available on the phone if I am unable to attend his clinic.

Yours faithfully,



Ms. P Collins,
Investigating Officer,
General Medical Council,
5th Floor, St. James,
79 Oxford St.,
MANCHESTER M1 6FQ



23rd June 2005

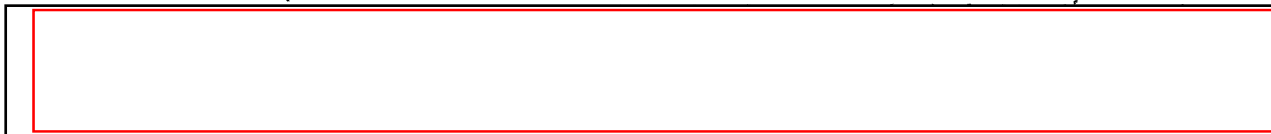
Adam Elliott
Interim Orders Panel
Regents Place
350 Euston Road
London NW1 3JN

Re Dr. Gordon R B Skinner

Dear Mr. Elliott,

I am alarmed to hear from friends that an allegation has been made against Dr. Skinner and that he is to appear before the Interim Orders Panel. I present a brief summary of my case and my experience of Dr. Skinner for your consideration.

In I consulted my then GP,
. He carried out a thyroid function test which came back as "OK".



By I had developed classic hypothyroid symptoms:-



[redacted]

I read a letter from Dr. Skinner to the BMJ which suggested that hypothyroidism could occur with a normal thyroid profile and persuaded my GP to refer me. After a thorough consultation Dr. Skinner said he believed I may be hypothyroid and started me on a cautious [redacted]g thyroxine. I'm a rather suspicious character and since there was no magic test demonstrating my hypothyroidism I asked myself the question "How do I know he isn't a quack?". I realised I needed an objective measure, so two days later I took some close up photographs of myself (enclosed) so I could see if there was an improvement. **Note that these photographs show how I am with normal levels of thyroid hormone in my blood.** [redacted]

[redacted] My improvement since then has been enormous. I now take [redacted] thyroxine plus [redacted] triiodothyronine, which puts my thyroid profile outside the reference range. This achieves a clinical euthyroid state.

The photographic evidence clearly shows that a normal thyroid profile does not exclude hypothyroidism. Failure to diagnose my hypothyroidism has had an enormous cost. [redacted]

[redacted]

The failure to diagnose also led to a raft of invasive and unpleasant investigations as well as the long term risks of hypothyroidism. Should I have reported these doctors to the GMC? I think not. They made a terrible mistake, they tried their best but were misguided.

I feel that the GMC is being used to fight an academic disagreement over the appropriate diagnosis and treatment of hypothyroidism. This should be done via research, appraising clinical outcomes and debate in the medical journals. Invoking the GMC disciplinary procedures is unethical, creates great anxiety and harms patients. Perhaps this can be investigated after the IOP have concluded.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]





Fitness to Practice Dr Gordon Skinner

I need to declare at the outset that I am not against endocrinologists as such, indeed our family will always be very grateful for the advice given by one some [] years ago, but when it comes to the treatment of thyroid problems, my personal experience has left much to be desired.

If any of you present heard the allegations at the first Interim Order Panel on 29 June 2005 when some 80 interested patients of Dr Skinner's attended, you may possibly wonder whether the high doses of medication, as levelled against him, might have such an adverse effect on us that we might disintegrate in some unimagined decline initiated by such. No, back we come undaunted by such spurious charges feeling as good as we described then, and more determined than ever, because of this, to defend him. We have the advantage of time to reflect on the whole situation, and particularly that of Dr Gordon Skinner. I have [] written in his defence 5 times for these. Despite his legal team refuting all but one of the charges, we were shocked to hear the same old allegations trotted out. You must therefore realize how important I feel it is to support this very particular doctor.



[] I saw the same local endocrinologist who did not seem remotely interested in the problems I was encountering in my hypothyroid state. He didn't examine me, merely said that from what I had told him he thought I should take []

[] My GP understood my anger and was horrified by this advice and referred me to Dr Skinner in []

When I saw Dr Skinner, I realized that at last I was encountering a specialist who earned his reputation as an expert in the field of thyroid problems having been sought out by colleagues who shared with him their concern about patients with ME (some endocrinologists condescendingly describe such as 'somataform' illness as seen in an article in 'The Lancet' by Prof Weetman on 13 March 2006).

With the knowledge of Dr Skinner's success with ME, an illness that had hitherto led unfortunate patients down many expensive and fruitless medical routes, I increasingly felt confident that here was a doctor who took a full case history, including family history, examined me correctly and thoroughly (unlike the endocrinologist I had seen who did none of this) and explained why thyroxine alone was not helping me. After on the additional drug tertroxin that Dr Skinner recommended and my GP prescribed, I emerged from the sepia state I had encountered since irradiation. From mcg to start with, I increased to mcg and came back to life in a remarkable way,

For those of us who have been fortunate enough to be Dr Skinner's patients, we appreciate him for many reasons. Dr Skinner expects us to be intelligent in the way we face up to our thyroid situation. I have, of my own free will, cut back on my tertroxin dosage realizing that I no longer need its original impact.

[REDACTED]

While eulogizing about Dr Skinner and the quality of life he has returned me to, I have a poignant footnote to my account.

[REDACTED]

While it was marvellous having her company and help, I was struck by how [REDACTED] had changed. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At a loss, our GP then asked what [REDACTED] would like her to do, and [REDACTED] with great self-control after the inappropriate diagnosis said 'refer me to Dr Skinner, please as he has been so successful treating Mum'. Fortunately she agreed to this and, indeed, she saw Dr Skinner shortly before [REDACTED]

I did not attend my daughter's consultation with Dr Skinner, just heard the summing up at the end of their time. Apparently Dr Skinner examined [REDACTED] and found many symptoms that confirmed the diagnosis I heard; [REDACTED] My daughter's relief was extraordinary on the journey home from [REDACTED] that the many symptoms that had been wearing her down were at last explainable and understandable. We were both overjoyed that thanks to Dr Skinner's sophisticated reading of the blood results that had been overlooked by her GP, this showed that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Our GP agreed with the treatment recommended, and prescribed the first [REDACTED] months' thyroxine. Despite a demanding new job in [REDACTED], [REDACTED] is just beginning to feel the

benefits of the treatment. We are both very anxious that Dr Skinner continues to treat [] as her condition will need to be carefully monitored, and the regime he has put her on adjusted accordingly. []

[] it is therefore really important that her treatment is monitored by Dr Skinner in whom she has every confidence, []

The situation I describe highlights my familial situation. My father's hyperthyroid state was not diagnosed for [] years []

I rejoice that my daughter and I have been fortunate enough to get the treatment we have and appeal to the GMC to accept the fact that endocrinologists need to wake up to correctly diagnosing and treating those with ME and thyroid problems in the way Dr Skinner does; after all his experience as a gynaecologist and virologist is surely as relevant as that of an endocrinologist whose sole purpose, certainly in my experience, is to give a prognosis rather than to diagnose and treat by clinical examination rather than laboratory results, the guidelines for which were only meant as a pointer in the first place to confirm a clinical diagnosis.

While I was initially angry about our GP misinterpreting []'s thyroid blood test results, I realized that this was probably down to insufficient training in this field. If this case has done no more than highlight the serious shortcomings in the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid problems in the British Isles, perhaps Dr Skinner, as the sacrificial doctor, has brought this fact to the attention of many people. Perhaps this is a great chance for the GMC to show the medical profession that it is capable of drawing correct attention to a serious flaw in medical practice.

I hope the GMC takes full responsibility for continuing the correct treatment for Dr Skinner's many patients, any alternative (including acquiring thyroxine over the internet) would surely be a disaster; some may even say of our human rights.

[]

[]

23 June 2007

M Shipway,
RadcliffesLeBrasseur,
5 Great College Street,
Westminster,
LONDON,
SW1P 3SJ

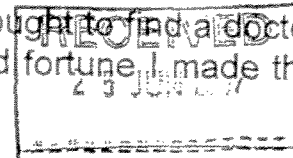
21st June 2007

Re: Gordon R B SKINNER MD (Hons) DSc FRCPATH FRCOG

Dear Sir/Madam,

Firstly I must stress that I find the situation Dr SKINNER has found himself in is absolutely ludicrous! If it were not for his professionalism and expertise in his field, I would still be struggling to get my GP to even understand I have a Thyroid condition. I visited my GP on many occasions with symptoms which I could not tolerate any more hoping I would be able to find the answer and cure. Blood tests were taken and when ringing the surgery for the result was told that everything with my thyroid was fine! I persevered with a few more visits and blood tests with apparently the same results – nothing wrong with my thyroid perhaps I had

[REDACTED]
It was a visit to my GP with an unrelated ailment that my GP took the time to read my results and question why we hadn't addressed my under active thyroid before! He was embarrassed to say the least when I pointed out to him that it was he who said there was not problem! Understandably this is when I sought to find a doctor who specialised in thyroid issues and by good fortune I made the journey to [REDACTED] to see Dr SKINNER.



Dr SKINNER has one noticeable trait that other General Practitioners don't seem to have - the capability of actually listening to me, he didn't fob me off and prescribed me a suitable dose of Thyroxin and at all stages reported back to my GP. I have

returned to Dr SKINNER on a further [] occasions, and on each visit he requires me to take my blood test results to him which are now normal for a man of my age. I still regularly visit my GP for repeat prescriptions and have regular blood tests, but on each occasion I have met with my doctor he appears to have no interest in the fact that I now feel "NORMAL". []

[] this is all thanks to an individual who knows what he is doing. If my doctor had taken the slightest bit of interest In the very beginning, do you really think that I would pay to seek help from someone else? I have paid into the National Health service all my working life and I would have liked it to help me on this occasion, it let me down where DR SKINNER hasn't, I have never felt so well and this is due to the care, consideration and professionalism that he has shown and given me.

I urge you on behalf of myself and all of the other patients he has helped, to treat any claims of "impaired fitness to practice" as absolute nonsense.

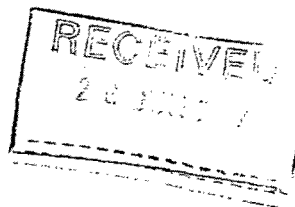
Yours truly,

[]

[]

25th June 2007

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St James's Buildings
79, Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ



Dear Ms Collins,

I understand that Dr G R B Skinner is due to attend a hearing of the General Medical Council on the 2nd July this year. As a patient of Dr Skinner, I thought that it was both important and appropriate that I should write to you.

I first became a patient of Dr Skinner in [redacted]. I went to him because of personal recommendation and, in particular, because of his knowledge of hypothyroidism. In [redacted], I underwent a total thyroidectomy and since that time had struggled to get my thyroid replacement therapy in balance. I had been advised by numerous medical practitioners,

[redacted]
[redacted]

Following recommendation and my consultations with Dr Skinner, he prescribed additional medication and almost immediately my health improved. Since that time, my health has been significantly better and, in broad terms, has given me a much better quality of life.

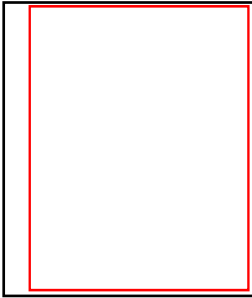
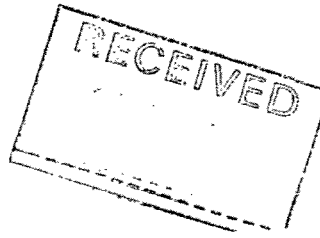
I am hugely grateful to Dr Skinner for his expert diagnosis and treatment and, throughout my regular consultations, he has been courteous, interested, supportive and professional. I would not hesitate to recommend him to others with a similar condition and indeed have done so. I may say that the individual concerned has met with similar success and improvement in their quality of life.

I trust that this information proves useful in support of this dedicated practitioner.

Yours sincerely,



Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6FQ



25th June 2007

Dear Madam

DOCTOR G R B SKINNER – FITNESS TO PRACTISE INVESTIGATION

I wish to relate my history of treatment for hypothyroidism, in support of Dr Skinner.

I became ill in early and saw my GP who said she could not find anything wrong with me. I continued to go back throughout all of that year and insisted on a referral to an NHS endocrinologist in . I was displaying what I found out to be all the classic symptoms of hypothyroidism, which quickly became so severe that I could barely function in my work and everyday life.



I was referred to Dr Skinner in [redacted], and after Dr [redacted] had written I also telephoned to secure an urgent appointment. By that time I was seriously concerned for my life. When I told Dr Skinner's PA about the illness and my concerns, she fitted me in to Dr Skinner's diary for the next day!

When I met Dr Skinner and told him the history, he was appalled that I had been repeatedly dismissed when I was obviously so ill. I remember putting my head down on his desk and sobbing in relief that at last someone believed me, and that I was not losing my mind or going to die.

Dr Skinner started me on thyroxine immediately and within weeks I began to recover.

What has been disturbing is that, in meeting other patients whilst waiting to see Dr Skinner, it appears that my story is not only familiar, most of the people I have met have had the same problems in getting the diagnosis and treatment they need, until they saw Dr Skinner.

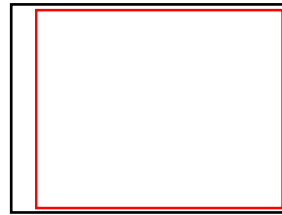
I am absolutely certain that if I had not seen Dr Skinner when I did, I would not be alive today.

I am extremely grateful to him for his ongoing support with my health, and have tremendous respect for his professionalism and care for his patients.

What does concern me greatly is that if Dr Skinner is unable to continue to practise, I will, along with possibly several thousand other patients, be referred back to an NHS Consultant who doesn't recognise that I have hypothyroidism.


I am sure you will consider this, and the potential of thousands of complaints to the General Medical Council, should Dr Skinner not be allowed to continue to support his patients.

Yours faithfully



Dear
Ms P Collins,

I am writing in regard to the quite peculiar news that Dr Gordon RB Skinner has been asked to attend a Fitness to Practise hearing under by my own admittedly limited understanding, ambiguous allegations.

I have been a patient of Dr Gordon Skinner since  and obviously can only speak from my own personal experience with him, and do not for a minute pretend to have anything more than a superficial knowledge of the medical profession.

Firstly and most importantly (well to me definitely!) my health has improved dramatically and I have been able to enjoy a significant increase in the quality of my life over the last couple of years. A fact I will eternally be grateful to Dr Skinner for, and is the most prominent reason I feel compelled to write this letter.

As a patient I have found him nothing but completely professional (albeit with a dry Scottish wit!) and felt he tackled my complaints with a calm and measured approach. I found to my "horror" that he was willing to listen to what I had to say and value my input as an important but obviously not deciding factor in evaluating the best course of action to steer me on a road to recovery.



Again I feel the need to reiterate that I am speaking from a patients perspective and my knowledge of the inner mechanics of the correct protocol for doctor patient relationships may leave a lot to be desired. However I feel as a "mere" patient my voice is an important one and should be heard.

It will be no surprise to you by now to hear that I am a great supporter of the work he has done for me in restoring me back to health. I credit him for the renewed faith and respect I have for the scientific method of the medical profession as he has shown me first hand what a skilled practitioner armed with a depth of knowledge, experience and training can achieve.

I sincerely hope this whole situation can resolve favourably for Dr Skinner and something positive and constructive can be borne from it. At the risk of ending on a sentimental note, Dr Skinner has literally changed my life and most likely many others and I personally feel that it would be deeply unfair and unjust that he should be somehow "punished" for this.

I thank you for your time and patience in reading this letter.

Kind Regards,

General Medical Council	
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Peter Swain,
Head of Case Presentation,
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council (GMC),
5th Floor, St James's Buildings,
79 Oxford Street,
Manchester,
M1 6FQ

19th June 2007

Dear Mr Swain,

I acknowledge receipt of your letters of 15th May and 8th June 2007 plus the letter sent by the President of the General Medical Council. However, despite the quantity of correspondence that I have received, I still feel that my concerns have not been fully addressed and therefore I am compelled to re-iterate the outstanding concerns.

I will be forwarding a copy of this letter to all the members of the GMC since as stated previously, the GMC is a charity (Registered Charity No. 1089278) and on the GMC website under the section, 'Code of Conduct and Guidance on the register of interests for members of the GMC' and under the subheading 'Charity Trusteeship' it states the following:- "Members have a responsibility as trustees to make sure that the GMC is acting within the law. Members who have specific concerns about the GMC's compliance with charity or other legislation should seek further information from the Chief Executive at the earliest opportunity" and "In the event that concerns remain, members should refer the matter to the Audit Committee which will report to the Council and, if appropriate, to the Charity Commission."

Members have obviously sought further information from the President of the GMC but have not referred the matter to the Audit Committee despite the fact that in my view concerns do remain. Therefore I wish to formally re-iterate some remaining concerns about the conduct of the GMC. I expect these concerns to be addressed by you and in addition I am expecting the members of the GMC to whom this letter has been copied to carry out their responsibility as trustees and address these concerns in accordance with the above code of conduct and guidance.

Concerns about the conduct of the GMC

Ignoring testimonials and information/evidence in support of Dr G R B Skinner

Thank for your letter of 8 June 2007 and your acknowledgement of receipt of the information sent by my wife and sister-in-law in December 2006. I fully appreciate the adversarial nature of the GMC's position however it seems only reasonable that you should examine evidence submitted in a doctor's defence and my wife and sister-in-laws' information is not without merit as they are published authors on the subject of hypothyroidism. It is not unusual for referrals to a Fitness to Practise Panel to be cancelled due to new evidence or other reasons, Rule 28 I believe covers this. So I appreciate your point that "it is not appropriate for the prosecutors of allegations in adversarial proceedings to decide what evidence should be presented on behalf of the defendant" but prosecutors should examine evidence to make a judgment on whether or not a case should continue to proceed to a formal hearing. The GMC obviously has provision for this within Rule 28. Under these circumstances, it seems reasonable that my wife and sister-in-law should be provided with confirmation that their information has been read by the GMC staff concerned.

In your letter of 8th June, you wrote, 'I confirm we received the information your wife and sister-in-law sent to the GMC in December 2006' but you have still not confirmed that their information

has been read by all the relevant GMC staff concerned. My wife and sister-in-law were already aware that their information had arrived but credit for this goes to the Royal Mail and not the GMC. Dr Skinner put my wife and sister-in-law on the path to recovery after they became severely ill for many years due to NHS treatment protocols which meant that their hypothyroidism was under treated. Their information included their testimonials in support of Dr Skinner and correspondence from their NHS endocrinologist (after discussion with his colleague who is a well known NHS endocrinologist) which demonstrated a consensus of opinion with Dr Skinner's treatment protocol and which enabled them to be provided with Dr Skinner's treatment protocol on the NHS. How can the GMC continue to question Dr Skinner's treatment protocol, when in the case of my wife and sister-in-law, it has received the backing of the NHS?

Failure to keep accurate records of the Interim Orders Panel (IOP) of Dr G R B Skinner

Even if you 'do not accept that there has been any error such as to render the proceedings involving Dr Skinner unsafe', please could you (1) confirm that the error involving the date that Dr Cundy wrote to the GMC has been corrected on all relevant documentation and (2) that the IOP panellists have actually read the bundles of documents used at each IOP. Although you say that it is up to Dr Skinner and his legal team to raise this with your legal team, shouldn't your legal team have ensured that accurate records were kept in the first place and shouldn't the above error have been picked up by the independent legal assessor?

Refusal to allow Dr Skinner to speak at the Interim Orders Panel (IOP)

The chairperson refused Dr Skinner's request to speak during the IOP hearing on 15 June 2006. Furthermore this was never recorded on the transcript for that date despite the fact that numerous witnesses (including myself) were present. In addition, my mother-in-law was informed by the GMC [in writing] that it was not normal practice for a doctor to be denied the opportunity to speak in his or her defence or ask questions at the appropriate stage during a hearing. This is clearly a contravention of Schedule 4, paragraph 3(b) of the Medical Act 1983 (as amended to date). "securing that a person in relation to whom an order has been made shall, if he so requires, be entitled to be heard by the panel on each occasion on which they review the order". This also puts into question, the accuracy and validity of the GMC's IOP hearing transcripts as they would appear to have been censored. You have not addressed the issue of censorship of the transcript; the requirement for the transcript is laid down in the Medical Act.

In your last letter, you have written, 'if Dr Skinner feels his right to address the IOP was improperly infringed he could have raised this at the time or on appeal'. Shouldn't your legal team have ensured that the Medical Act 1983 was followed in the first place and shouldn't the above error have been picked up by the independent legal assessor? In your last letter, you state, 'We do not accept that any improper interference took place'. Does this mean that the GMC considers it acceptable to contravene Schedule 4, paragraph 3(b) of the Medical Act 1983?

Provision of inaccurate information to the High Court of Justice

The GMC has removed a number of cases from the impending Fitness to Practise Hearing for Dr Skinner but the GMC retained these cases in the papers of the Interim Orders Procedure and in the documents which proceeded to the High Court of Justice asking for an extension of these procedures. Again this calls the legality of the proceedings into question. Also what are the legal ramifications for providing inaccurate information to the High Court of Justice? Has the High Court of Justice been informed by the GMC that the GMC submitted inaccurate information as the GMC were notified of this error by Dr Skinner some time ago? Should the extension of the procedures granted by the High Court of Justices be withdrawn forthwith?

In your last letter, you stated, 'We are not aware of any errors in the material put before the Interim orders Panel (IOP) or the High Court of such magnitude as to render those proceedings unsafe.' Since you have not said 'We are not aware of any errors whatsoever' but have instead said, 'We are not aware of any errors.....of such magnitude as to render those proceedings unsafe', one can only infer that you are aware of errors (as notified by Dr Skinner) but have taken

it upon yourselves to decide what level of error is acceptable and what level of error is unacceptable. Surely this is for the High Court to decide and not individuals within the GMC.

I shall be forwarding a copy of this letter to the Administrative Court of the High Court of Justice Queen's Bench Division (Court case reference number CO/7807/2006) and welcome their comments regarding the legality of the GMC's stance on this matter. Those council members and staff of the GMC who are subject to regulation by the law society should also seek guidance as to their position regarding the law society regulations, specifically rule 21.01 Duty not to mislead court. Solicitors, who act in litigation, whilst under a duty to do their best for their client, must never deceive or mislead the court. Principle 21.01 applies equally to proceedings before tribunals and inquiries as well as to proceedings before the courts. You have been aware of these errors for some considerable time and at my request and that of Dr Skinner have failed to address the issue. You have admitted in your letter of 8 June 2007 to there being errors in the procedures but are unwilling to take steps to correct them. I would consider your inaction to be bordering on malleasance. In your letter of 8 June 2007, you describe the GMC proceedings as "akin to the criminal courts". If the prosecution in a criminal case did the same as the GMC has done in this instance, knowingly submitting incorrect allegations to the court, they would be open to charges of perjury and perverting the course of justice. The GMC has clearly broken Principle 21.01 therefore I am sending a copy of this letter to the Law Society - Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal.

Inappropriate requests for consent to obtain Medical records

You have attempted to explain why the GMC is contravening the Data Protection Act 1998 by making inappropriate requests for medical records by stating that you may request access to medical records when carrying out your statutory duty to investigate any information which suggests a doctor's fitness to practise might be impaired. There is also a question mark over whether in some cases the GMC is obtaining patient medical records without the permission of the patients concerned (BBC News 24 website) despite the fact that on your website, it states that under the Data Protection Act, the patients concerned would have the right to ask the GMC to stop processing personal data if the processing will cause them or somebody else any unjustified damage or substantial distress and the patients concerned would have the right to claim compensation if they have suffered damage and distress as a result of the GMC failing to comply with the Data Protection Act. In your defence, you have stated that 'We will seek the patient's consent for access to records but if consent is withheld we must decide whether the public interest nevertheless requires us to seek access so as to fulfil our statutory obligations to investigate the fitness to practise of doctors'. You have decided that it would be justifiable to contravene the Data Protection Act 1998 to fulfil your statutory obligations. I wonder if the Information Commissioner would come to the same conclusion if asked to arbitrate on such matters.

Possibility of a Biased Expert Witness

The endocrinologist Professor Tony Weetman is listed on the GMC website as a co-opted member of the GMC on the Education Committee. However, in the journal 'Clinical Endocrinology' with the quizzical title of 'Whose Thyroid Hormone Replacement is it Anyway?' Professor Tony Weetman demonstrated that he has preconceived negative ideas about some of the groups of patients being helped by Dr Skinner by stating 'The majority of patients who demand thyroid hormone treatment for multiple symptoms, despite normal thyroid function tests, have functional somatoform disorders'.

In my first letter, I wrote "Therefore, due to concerns regarding his close links with the GMC and his lack of impartiality, please could you confirm that Professor Weetman will not have any involvement in the forthcoming FTP for Dr Skinner". Since you have replied as follows, "If a doctor considers a GMC witness to have a conflict of interest then he or she can instruct his or her legal team to argue this at the hearing", I can only assume therefore, that the GMC intend to use Professor Weetman as their witness. I find it completely unacceptable that the GMC should allow a serving member of the GMC to be selected for the role of expert witness. There is an obvious conflict of interest and therefore he should not have even been considered.

The Attorney General speaking to the Academy of Expert Witnesses, January 2007 when discussing the importance of witness independence, said "The expert is not an advocate of his client's case. He is not a claims negotiator – or if he is, he should not also present himself as an expert in related court proceedings. He should not be linked to the dispute in which he is giving evidence, because otherwise his independence will be in doubt."

Professor Weetman is an unsuitable witness based on all of the points raised by the Attorney General.

In responding to a letter from Douglas Carswell MP the GMC wrote "We instruct experts for the GMC's case against the doctor but their duty is to be independent of the GMC or the doctor when giving their evidence". I would like you to explain that statement given the fact that Professor Weetman is a serving member of the GMC.

Permitting IOP and FTP procedures to be misused to stifle open scientific debate

In a GMC response to Bernard Jenkin MP [latest edition of Thyroid UK News], the GMC stated, 'It is fair to say that Dr Skinner's approach to practise strongly divides opinion and that his supporters are as vocal on his behalf as are his critics. The issues are very complex, relating as they do to strongly held views over different approaches to medical treatment.' This appears to be an admission on the part of the GMC that this is a "difference of opinion", which is not something with which the GMC should be involving itself.

However, Dr Skinner has been attempting to resolve this issue by research and discussion. According to Diana Holmes in her book 'Tears Behind Closed Doors', a conference was arranged for 19th October 2000 by Dr Skinner to discuss diagnosis and treatment of clinically hypothyroid, but biochemically euthyroid patients with thyroid replacement therapy. Many endocrinologists were invited but every single one refused to attend.

In my first letter, I asked, "Is it fair that instead of engaging Dr Skinner and other medical practitioners who share similar views in open scientific debate, the GMC is permitting critics of the treatment protocols used by Dr Skinner and others, to misuse IOP and FTP procedures to attempt to silence opposing views?" This point has not been addressed by you at all, and therefore, I await your comments. I also suggest that the GMC should take its own advice on this matter "It is no-one's interest to allow the procedures to be misused or misapplied. Nor can it be in the interests of patients if the regulator is viewed as oppressive by the profession" a quote from GMC today issue 04 October 2005 by Sir Graeme Catto.

Contravention of Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998


Do all the miscarriages of justice listed so far contravene Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998? Does the unreasonable length of time that this investigation has taken to date contravene Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998? In your letter of 15th May 2007, you have attempted to address this point by saying, 'Interim Orders Panels are also assisted by an Independent Legal Assessor whose duty it is to intervene if there has been procedural or legal error'. However, shouldn't your legal team have ensured that the Human Rights Act 1998 was followed in the first place? Please could the independent legal assessor confirm in writing that Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 has not been contravened?


Contravention of Article 2 and Article 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998

I am concerned that the GMC staff are not listening to the numerous letters in support of Dr Skinner. If the GMC prevents Dr Skinner from providing the treatment that his patients need, the individuals working for the GMC would be responsible for the disability and risk of death that his patients would face. Would the GMC/ individuals concerned be legally liable in such a situation and would such a circumstance be interpreted as a potential contravention of Article 2 and Article 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998? Would the GMC staff concerned including the case examiners face potential liability under Article 2 and 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998? I am still awaiting a direct answer to the above questions.

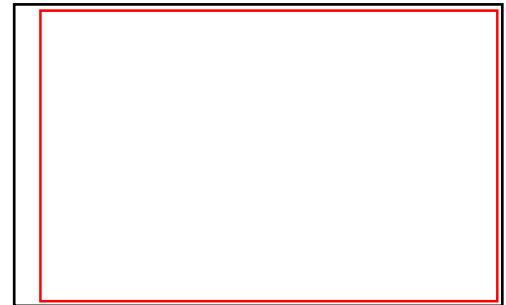
Dr Skinner is restoring his patients to health and saving lives. If the GMC takes any action against Dr Skinner at the impending FTP hearing in July 2007, the GMC would be placing the health and lives of his patients at risk and this must not be allowed to happen.

Yours sincerely,

c.c. Dr G R B Skinner & 
c.c. Mr R Shipway, Radcliffe Infirmary
c.c. Dr M Dudley, Medical Protection Society
c.c. All members of the GMC
c.c. Ms. Patricia Collins, Investigation Officer, GMC
c.c. Ms. C Henesy, Assistant Registrar, GMC
c.c. Ms A Thompson, Adjudication Manager, GMC
c.c. Mr Andrew Wood, Assistant Registrar, GMC
c.c. Mr A Ellison, IOP, GMC
c.c. Ms Dewhurst, Performance Assessment Officer, GMC
c.c. Ms R Goldsach, Adjudication Section, GMC
c.c. Ms C Floyd, Investigation Officer, FTP Directorate
c.c. Ms J Oliver, Claimant Solicitor, GMC
c.c. Ms T Sawtell, GMC Legal
c.c. Mr Hiscock, Legal Assistant, GMC
c.c. Mr S Goddes, Head of Adjudication Management, GMC
c.c. Kenneth Dibble, Executive Director, Legal and Charity Services, The Charity Commission
c.c. The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP
c.c. The Rt Hon Peter Hain MP
c.c. Mrs Mandie Cockram, Customer Care Co-ordinator, BSI
c.c. Neil Hannah, Managing Director of the BSI
c.c. Shami Chakrabarti, Liberty, The Civil Liberties Trust


c.c. Thyroid UK
c.c. TPA-UK
c.c. The Administrative Court of the High Court of Justice Queen's Bench Division
c.c. Law Society - Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal
c.c. Douglas Carswell MP

General Medical Council	
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Original was Poor Quality	
25 JUN 2007	
Original has been reviewed to improve from Quality	
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Ms. P. Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor, St. James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
MANCHESTER, M1 6FQ

Dear Ms. Collins,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Gordon Skinner and in the hope that the GMC will see sense and consider that the proposed Fitness to Practise hearing to be held on July 2nd 2007 is a complete waste of taxpayer's money!

I first attended Dr. Skinner in [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] I heard that Dr. Gordon Skinner held consultations in [redacted] and was lucky enough to get a double appointment. I had been aware that my sister was obviously suffering from hypo-thyroidism for [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] Her G.P. did thyroid blood tests but kept telling her that her thyroid was normal as she was in the normal range. [redacted] [redacted]

From my own experience, having been diagnosed in [redacted] I felt sure she was hypo-thyroid.

When Dr. Skinner called me in to his room he asked about the person I was with in the waiting room. He remarked how ill she was looking and could tell from one look that she was hypo-thyroid. I said that was why I had brought her

I am pleased to say that with a prescription for Armour Thyroid from Dr. Skinner she was on the road to health in no time at all. She also managed to come off the [redacted] [redacted] which, as we all know, do nothing but mask symptoms!

In my own experience I started on Thyroxine and just never felt well. I tried constantly adjusting the dose but knew that something was missing. When I started on Armour Thyroid it was like a light being switched on. When the powers-that-be tried to stop the importation of Armour a few years ago, I decided to try Thyroxine once more in case what was available was of inferior quality. My G.P is a very understanding person who is prepared to listen to me and has gone along with my trials of Thyroxine and

Triiodothyronine. She knows that I would like to be able to use NHS prescribed medication but as I do not feel as well she is prepared to give me a prescription for Natural Thyroid at my own expense. She has absolutely no objection to my seeing Dr. Skinner and is willing to give me copies of my blood tests to show him.

What I do not understand is why Dr. Skinner is being victimised. Here we have a caring clinically aware well educated Doctor who is trying to do his best for his patients with tremendous results. He has written a book which answers many questions having put together symptoms gleaned from his patients over the years which helps others suffering from thyroid problems to relate. The book is also written with a sense of humour, somewhat of a rarity in the medical self-help books but the one thing about hypothyroidism is that it does not affect one's sense of humour! Thank God.

I have always taught my children to admit when they have made a mistake, learn from it and move on. Oh, that the Medical World could do likewise. It is pretty obvious that the parameters for Thyroid testing are too wide. Many people who show up as being low of normal are indeed abnormal in that they are hypothyroid. Because they show as being in the normal range they are denied the little pill that could change their lives for evermore, indeed give them back their lives as Dr. Skinner has done for so many. Can you imagine the number of people who are in homes labelled as suffering from dementia, the number of people who sit at home every day afraid to face the world, suffering from all the symptoms I have mentioned above but being told that it is all in their mind thereby denying them the sympathy and support of their families who tell them to pull themselves together.

What is wrong with the Medical World that they are not big enough to admit a glaringly obvious mistake. Just think of the money that could be saved by prescribing thyroxine or indeed natural thyroid instead of anti-depressants, anti-inflammatories, heart drugs, diuretics and on and on. Or is that perhaps the answer that I have just given. As long as pharmaceutical companies can keep supplying expensive drugs, thereby funding medical establishments, the cheaper simpler option is not as popular. Fluoride, banned in other countries, is being added to water supplies at great expense and is known to be anti-thyroid, amalgam fillings containing mercury, also banned in other countries, and thought to be anti-thyroid continue to be used in Britain. We wonder why we have so many ill people in Britain. Is it not obvious! The thyroid was once described to me by an endocrinologist in Colombia, as being "la chispa de la vida" (the spark of life) we are so in danger in this country of disallowing people to enjoy being sparky. It is only thanks to caring Doctors like Dr. Skinner that a chosen few can sparkle, i.e. those lucky enough to find him.

Knowing the medical history of her two daughters, we now know that my Mother was an undiagnosed hypo-thyroid.



I use this story as an example of what can happen when a person is not properly diagnosed with hypo-thyroidism. If only we had known of a Dr. Gordon Skinner at that stage in our lives. It also illustrates the arrogance of Doctors who think they know it all and the reliance on machinery to give the correct answers. Not always the answer.

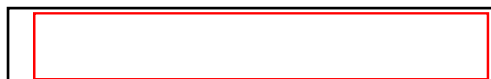
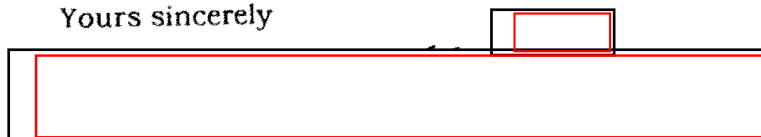
I am protecting both of those doctors by withholding their names as we did at the time, [redacted] [redacted]



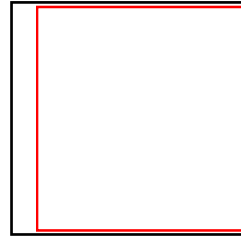
I am sure that there are many more such family stories. One only has to read the book written by Diana Holmes to prove that.

To accuse Dr. Gordon Skinner of being unfit to practise, when he is doing his utmost to right a situation and give people hope that they can lead a normal life once more, just beggars belief.

Yours sincerely



26/6/07



Dear Ms. Collins,

I am writing to express my support for the important and life changing work that Dr. Skinner does for his patients. I have been in Dr. Skinners care for almost [redacted] with some improvement and hope for more in the future.

Sadly my G.P was happy to leave me with no diagnosis and to struggle with little support. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Without his support and treatment I do not know how the past [redacted] would have gone but with his help my health has improved and I have a life back.

Yours Sincerely

[redacted]

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[Redacted]

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
MANCHESTER
M1 6FQ

General Medical Council	
Original was a Photocopy	
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22nd June, 2007

Dear Ms Collins,

RE: Dr G R B Skinner & forthcoming hearing

I write in support of the above named doctor who has recently been treating me for low thyroid function.

I was desperate to find some relief from the symptoms I was experiencing and luckily I found out about Dr Skinner whilst researching my symptoms on the internet. I suspected thyroid problems might explain why I was feeling so lethargic as my mother also suffered from thyroid problems, but only when I arrived at Dr Skinner's surgery and completed his checklist of symptoms did I realise how many of the things I had been experiencing were related to thyroid dysfunction.

Thankfully, Dr Skinner listened carefully to me – something which is rare in a doctor these days due to the time pressure on GPs in their surgeries – he also did a blood test and since I have been taking the thyroid medication I have been steadily returning to my former self.

I cannot understand why a doctor such as Dr Skinner would be the subject of an investigation by the GMC. Dr Skinner is an exemplary role model in his 'patient manner' – he puts you at ease, listens really carefully and encourages you to be really honest about how you are feeling. I am about to return to my job as a teacher and I could not have done this without help from this doctor.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

cc Dr Skinner
cc Mr R Shipway, Rodcliffes Le Brasseur

Dear Ms Collins

23.6.2007.

I am writing to you in support of Doctor Gordon R. B. Skinner

I first saw Doctor Skinner in [redacted] after I had had a few years not knowing why I felt so awful.

I had three thyroid blood tests from my GP that showed I did not have a problem.

I was seeing my GP who could not help me feel any better. With my GP approval I saw Doctor Skinner who talked and listened to me and diagnosed an underactive thyroid.

I now feel so much better and able to cope with my underactive thyroid.

Seeing Doctor Skinner helped explain alot of things that had been a problem and unexplained.

'Fitter to Practise' my problem with that is. There are not enough 'Doctors' who are as knowledgeable as Doctor Skinner

Who is willing to spend time to get the right dosage that helps the patients.

If it had not been for the help from Doctor Skinner I would not be where I am today.

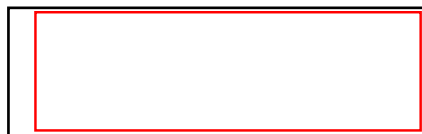
The 'Fitness to Practise' hearing should never go ahead It is wrong.

Doctor Skinner would not put any patients treatment at risk.

He has always written to my GP. and my GP is thankful he does.

Doctor Skinner is a kind understanding professional. Who only looks after his patients well being.

Yours faithfully


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

Dear ms P Collins

Im writing to say
That im in full support of Dr Skinner.
with out him I would still be struggling
alone with my condition and never
seeing and end to it. and been told
your hevlts are normal. hey Im
The patient listen to me all these
Symptoms dont add up. and thank
God I meet Dr Skinner I am now
well on the way to full health
after years of struggling alone
I felt in lost years through
ill health. So at its strated
I have so much more energy
and Im a lot more active

all my family & Friends and
husband have notice a huge
difference in me. So I felt he
should be Receiving a medal. not
having to go in front of The
GMC. I hope the ones on the
Board are Thyroid Suffers to as
who are they to Judge unless
They had first hand experience
of the condition. surely we are
the best Judges.


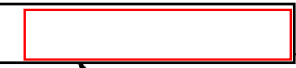

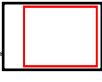
Yours Sincerely


18.06.07

Dear Ms Collins,

RE:- DR. GORDON SKINNER.

I am writing to say how much Dr Skinner has helped my parents.

About  years ago my mum started to be ill. Our G.P. thought she had  but couldn't account for other symptoms. She remained under the care of our G.P. but deteriorated considerably over  years and I felt we were going to lose her.  years ago we heard about Dr Skinner and went to see him. Our G.P. was aware of this as we kept him fully informed of what was happening.

Dr Skinner requested results of mum's blood tests from our GP and he found she had an underactive thyroid which was a major factor in all the symptoms she had. Dr Skinner treated her for this. Mum kept going to our G.P. for check-ups, but also to Dr Skinner's clinic for monitoring. Our G.P. supplies mum's thyroxin and keeps a check on her, but she still goes to Dr Skinner's clinic to be monitored as we have every confidence that if there were any changes, then Dr Skinner would be the first to pick up on this.

My parents and myself are extremely glad we got to know about Dr Skinner and he was able to find out what was wrong with mum and treat her. Her health began to improve and she now has her life back again. Within the last couple of weeks our GP

3

has referred my dad to Dr Skinner as
he has health problems - a number of these
relate to hypothyroidism.

Our family cannot speak highly enough
about Dr Skinner. He really cares about his
patients and makes sure he keeps G.P's informed
too. It's just a shame more specialists [redacted]
[redacted] don't work like same.

Yours Sincerely
[redacted]

cc. Mr. R. Shipway.



Ms. P. Collins,
Investigation Officer,
General Medical Council,
5th Floor, St. James's Buildings,
79 Oxford Street,
Manchester M1 6FQ.

26 June 2007

Dear Ms. Collins,

Gordon RB Skinner MD, DSc., FRCPath, FRCOG

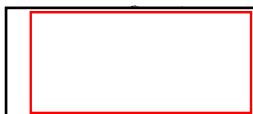
I have recently attended my first consultation with Dr. Skinner at his clinic in [redacted] and it was brought to my attention that he has been asked to attend a Fitness to Practise hearing of the General Medical Council on 2 July.

Although I have only met Dr. Skinner once, I am extremely surprised that this should be the case, not only because of the careful and thorough examination he gave me of both my physical condition and clinical history but also because of his meticulous attitude towards his colleagues and professional medical procedure within the NHS. Above all, my impression is of his main desire to work in the best interests of his patients which *particularly* includes his wish to work in cooperation with their GP and carers.

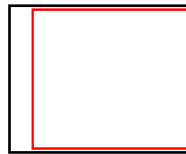
Although I was diagnosed with thyroid disease in [redacted] it would appear from Dr. Skinner's initial examination that I am severely hypothyroid, my blood tests having been assessed as 'adequate' but always at the lowest measurement of the reference range; he believes that my extreme physical and mental fatigue which has prevented me from sustaining any professional work since [redacted] is largely due to long-term hypothyroidism initiating [redacted] years ago, most possibly from an entero-virus infection. He is hopeful that with adequate treatment and monitoring, I may be able to return to a normal working and social life, which I have lost for many years. Although my last visit to a consultant endocrinologist within the NHS in [redacted] identified [redacted] [redacted] it was not considered necessary to examine or monitor me further, my previous clinical history not considered significant at that time, prescribing simply thyroxine and the standard blood test. My condition has subsequently deteriorated to living a very reduced lifestyle, at least 75% below my normal activity when originally leading a professional working life.

I am grateful to Dr. Skinner for looking at my case again in such detail and showing such enthusiastic care in trying to significantly improve my life for the future. I do hope that you will take this into account when considering his case, together with all the other patients he has helped to function again after many years of suffering.

Yours sincerely,

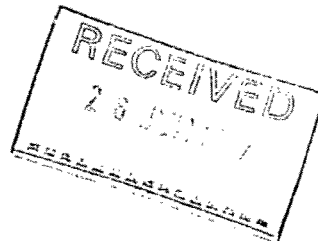


cc. Dr. G. Skinner
Mr. R. Shipway



June 23, 2007

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St James' Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6FQ



Dear Ms Collins

Re: Dr G.R.B. Skinner MD, [redacted]

I am writing a letter of support for Dr Skinner, both on behalf of myself, but more on behalf of the thousands of undiagnosed and untreated hypothyroid patients in the UK and beyond.

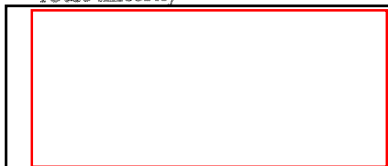
[redacted] I am aware of the symptoms of hypothyroidism, and [redacted] I saw these symptoms in myself, and recognised them. I, along with countless others, met a black and white approach from the medical profession. Even though my symptoms screamed hypothyroidism over and over, the blood chemistry reported low normal. But I ask "normal for who?" and Dr Skinner, a lone voice of reason knew, as I did, that it was not normal *for me*.

My under-active thyroid transformed my life. [redacted]



Imagine my relief when finally I saw a different GP at the practice and finally got referred to Dr Skinner, who recognised, as I did, that I was hypothyroid. I am now well on the road to recovery thanks to his common-sense approach. I can only appeal to you on the basis of my case that you do not take action against him,

Yours sincerely



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 June 2007 14:17
To: GMC Fitness to Practise
Subject: Skinner

please read and forward to p. collins as her email doesnt appear to be working.

My name is [REDACTED] I have been treated for thyroid problems for [REDACTED] years with gradually worsening symptoms, which the doctor has treated with numerous palliative medications, finally I was told in the presence of my daughter that there was no more medicine could do for me, even though I was in severe pain and had virtually no life as I was so tired, depressed and in pain, so anything was worth a try, I wish doctors would realise how ill I was and that this was my wish to try anything to improve things. I feel like a highly polished Rolls-Royce with no petrol.

The way your system works leaves doctors hands tired in trying to help their patients, I am fully prepared to sign a waiver to my doctors and you to the effect that I accept that as the tests show I am well, I should not be doing what I want them to do which is give me high doses of T3 and natural thyroid.

The latest research shows that this does have an effect of my problems, I have treated myself with this and was improving, I am now having problems with the doctors as my test results are now abnormal, they therefore want me to go back to T4 and 10 T3 which I told them would make me ill, they want me to do it so they can see the results, I told them it would make me much worse which it is. I consider what they are doing is unethical as I am feeling a lot worse, and they want me to do it for a month then get the tests repeated.

To do what then I do not know.

In other words if feel better when the tests show I should be ill, but am ill when the tests show I should be better only doing T4 and TSH tests.

I believe the way you have treated Dr [REDACTED] and the way you are treating Dr skinner ties their and other Drs hands, in helping people like me.

This is all wrong and is putting me under even more stress as I am having to fight the doctors and you and your system.

I hope you will see that people like Dr skinner and Dr [REDACTED] actually wish to help people with my problems and are doing so. please help them rather than hinder them.

It is my belief that in 10 to 15 years you will all acknowledge that the use of high T3 and natural thyroid is a better way to treat people like me rather than with T4 either alone or with a low dose of T3, there is lot of research out there but you are too slow to accept the improvements made with this treatment and to accept that the tests you are doing are inadequate for people like me, there should always be a T3 test performed as well as a RT3 test, also I feel that they should also do adrenal function tests as standard.

As I have read the information available on the internet and come to this conclusion does this mean that you are not keeping an open mind and up to date, does this leave you open for myself and others to sue you for not doing so.

You are threatening Dr Skinner and have made life so difficult for Dr that he has left perhaps threatening to sue may be the only thing that you will listen to.

yours sincerely

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 26 June 2007 14:20

To: GMC Fitness to Practise

Subject: Skinner

please pass on to p collins as her email doesnt seem to be working

I am an [REDACTED] year old man who is having to help my daughter, she is not a patient of doctor skinner but we both believe he is doing a good job and treating this difficult problem as the tests do not seem to work.

My daughter [REDACTED] has suffered from thyroid/fm/cfs for several years. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I went on the internet and found 6,000,000 + people seemed to have her symptoms and there seemed to be a number of treatments. I picked one I had nothing to lose (she had threatened suicide).

T3 was brought from abroad which she took. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] she was much better!

We are now trying to teach a new doctor and a new consultant how to treat her condition. She is having to go back to her previous treatments with its pain and trauma to do this??? Please consider your patients first your best practice second and let your doctors learn and treat symptoms when tests do not show there is a problem, but the patient says they are still ill.

I have google alerting me for news of treatments and research on fibromyalgia, it has not picked up UK research of this problem. Can you tell me if there is any.

Your Truly [REDACTED]

Ms. P. Collins,
Investigation Officer,
General Medical Council,
5th Floor, St. James's Buildings,
79 Oxford Street,
Manchester, M1 6FQ

Dear Ms. Collins,

General Medical Council	
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Successful Treatment I received from Dr. Gordon Skinner

In the early []'s I became ill with overactive thyroid. I was treated with [] and became underactive. The doctors in the endocrine department then put me on a low dose of thyroxine. When I reported that I was exhausted all the time they took no notice as thyroxine levels were said to be 'within normal range'. It felt as if they were washing their hands of me. For some [] years I crawled along on a minimum of energy, much of the time scarcely managing to get out of bed.

[]
[] I had heard about Dr. Skinner and I made an appointment to see him in [] with my G.P.'s permission. Dr. Skinner recommended natural thyroid supplement and I began to improve. Dr. Skinner monitored my condition whilst I gradually recovered my energy.

For the last [] years I have been able to live a full life again after years of 'living on empty'. I don't know how it would be had I never found Dr. Skinner but I suspect I would still be struggling to put one foot in front of another. I still consult him occasionally when my dosage needs adjusting and I have always found his advice effective.

Sincerely,

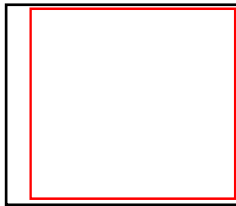
[]

[] I am happy to confirm this account of []'s illness and Dr. Skinner's successful treatment. He has done an excellent job and we are both extremely grateful to him and horrified to learn of the proceedings against him.

[]

[]

ccs: Gordon R B Skinner MD (Hons) DSc FRCPath FRCOG
Mr R Shipway - RadcliffesLeBrasseur




25th June, 2007

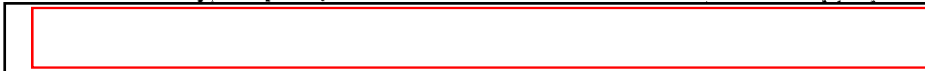
Ms Patricia Collins
Investigations Officer,
Fitness to Practise Directorate
GMC
5th Floor
St James' Buildings
79 Orchard Street,
MANCHESTER
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins,

Dr. Gordon Skinner – Hearing 2nd July 2007

I understand there is to be a further hearing regarding this splendid Doctor, who is the most professional and efficient I have come across.

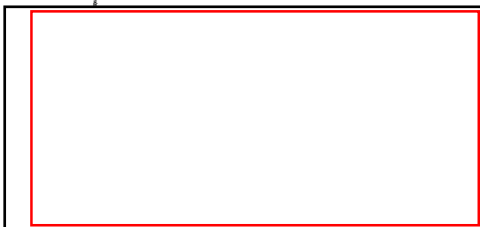
To this end I am sending you the letters I have already written regarding Dr. Gordon Skinner and I hope they may be read out at the hearing. 



I do wonder why this – what seems to be a witch hunt – is still proceeding. In everything I have heard so far Dr. Skinner is a superior opinion leader with great experience and with a brilliant and effective practice, much valued by his patients.

I would be grateful if you would take my comments and the attached letters into consideration and if this could also be seen to be done.

Yours truly,




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Re:

Dr Gordon Skinner
Reference Number: 0726922
Fitness to Practice hearing 2 July 2007
GMC Manchester

I write in support of my doctor, Dr Gordon Skinner. I wish this used in his defense.

I was sick for  years, with some classic symptoms of hypothyroidism, and a strong family history to match. My TSH had been tested but was the high end of normal. The prevailing wisdom is that such patients are not deemed to need treatment, and I got none.

Furthermore, there was a twist in thinking. Since my blood tests were just within the reference range, my symptoms must have had other causes (though none was ever found). So I continued to decline.

I found Dr Skinner. He thought my symptoms relevant to hypothyroidism. And he understood that blood tests are statistical tools, they didn't stop him thinking I'm an individual in need.

He performed blood tests, examined me for signs and symptoms, took exhaustive history (the benefit of long appointments) and listened to what I had to say. He has always communicated with my GP.

He started me very gradually on thyroid replacement. I have tried 3 regimes, settling on Armour Thyroid, which suits me best. Throughout he has monitored my progress carefully. Since I first became ill I have had much experience of doctors and their procedures, and I have absolutely no complaints about his care. He has an enquiring mind and does not give up on a problem, unlike so many whose care I have been under.

I consider he has saved me from a decline that would have ended badly. I am now in better health than I dreamed possible. I am undertaking my life again. I have energy to do what I want, to do my part, to plan ahead, to work. I cannot thank him enough.

So why do others seek to tear that all down? Thousands he has helped will suffer, and others will fear to follow. He has hurt no one, which few can claim in medicine.

The patient information leaflet with my thyroxine said dose would be arrived at using blood tests or clinical assessment. 'Or', not even 'and'! How the guidelines have changed. Now the purpose of testing is to keep the patient within reference range, with no mention of making them well. The interrelation between wellness and blood chemistry has been turned on its head in twisted logic. Everyone must conform to the so-called norm, yet there is no such person.

When a rule is rigid, but can be demonstrated not to include all, society should worry. Our recovery is the testimony that shows blood tests taken alone can miss the truth sometimes. Obstructing professional freedom to help those on the margins of a population, the exceptions that prove your rule, if you like, is cruel. Medical opinions change. It's time this one did.

To remove Dr Skinner from practice will sentence us to our former state, yet his methods have been demonstrated to work for us where typically nothing else has. So there is nothing else on offer, yet you would remove help from us and deter all who follow after. That is to do harm where your profession promises not to, to wrest health back from us, and I am interested to know how that can be properly answered.

--	--

I am Dr Gordon Skinner's patient. I am very happy with the thyroid treatment he has prescribed for my symptoms, and the manner in which he manages my case. I am recovering well and returning to a good quality of life, better than I could have hoped for after years without any help from, I regret to say, from the NHS.

--

They did not question that the blood test was sole arbiter, effectively negating their clinical judgement. Rather they inverted their reasoning. They were sure my symptoms had other multiple causes, (never found). Some just said their

Some just said their hands were tied. They are all failing to understand the difference between a population trend and the individual in front of them, the statistical methods by which reference ranges are produced, and that a patient will not lurch from myxoedema to thyrotoxicity if given a thyroid to check whether she might be healthier at the bottom end of the reference range rather than at the top. After all, the lower end is supposed to be 'normal' too.

[illegible]

--

[redacted]
[redacted] I hear that in the US the top of the TSH range has been lowered. In that set up I would never have been denied treatment, and Dr Skinner would not be causing controversy in treating me. Yet we are the same people, our problems unchanged.

Rather than admit tests, while valuable, have limits to their usefulness, I see attempts to bring down Dr Skinner in other ways. Perhaps you can find a letter to a GP that got lost, or some other technicality. Everyone can tell you of something the health profession has got wrong, some examples are horrendous. Yet Dr Skinner has hurt no one and helped thousands. That's a big claim these days. This case is about practice or procedure, where nothing is significantly wrong, in order to bring him down. Dr Skinner is here for a principle.

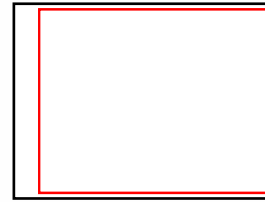
I believe this case is brought because he is not to be allowed to question the established wisdom where he sees a need, thereby unfortunately criticising others. Great store, rightly, is put in maintaining public confidence in the system. But no system can be 100% right, so please allow some room for manoeuvre for doctors to save those of us who fall outside the limits. We live in a time of control and rules and fear of litigation, which crush the individual. Dr Skinner has had great success in restoring patients like me to health, where the received wisdom has failed us. He has demonstrated what works for thousands of us. How can that be denied? We need Dr Skinner, and for others to be free to practice like him.

Otherwise without help we will deteriorate; hypothyroidism is a particularly awful existence. I wish to know how else you propose to restore us, if you prevent Dr Skinner and others like him from doing what is already demonstrably working well. Do not deny us our right to health by undoing his good work, not if the profession's rules and oaths are to count for anything.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]



20th June 2007

Ms P Collins,
Investigation Officer,
GMC,
5th Floor,
St. James' Buildings,
79, Oxford Street,
Manchester.
M1 6FQ.

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Dear Ms Collins,

Allegations Made Against Dr. Skinner

I am writing to express my concern that Dr. Skinner's professional judgement is being questioned. In my opinion he is a highly professional doctor who successfully helps people who are suffering from thyroid problems to recover their health. This often happens long after doctors in the NHS have concluded that there is nothing more that they can do for a patient. My case illustrates the point.

I was diagnosed with an under-active thyroid in [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] I was referred by my GP to two NHS specialists who both ran extensive tests before discharging me because "there was nothing more they could do for me". All my blood test suggested that my thyroid levels were normal.

In [redacted] I was referred to Dr Skinner who put me on a mixture of thyroxine and armour thyroid. Since then I have slowly begun to recover my health and my life has returned to some semblance of normality. [redacted]
[redacted]

Interestingly my blood test still say that my thyroid levels are normal although I'm taking a completely different level and mixture of medication .

In my opinion Dr Skinner has a rare skill not often found in doctors. He listens to his patients and doesn't just rely on the results of blood tests. And that is why he gets results.

I know that I am only one of a number of people that Dr Skinner has helped to regain their health. He has also given me my life back. I understand that to others that sounds

like a very dramatic statement. However, it is true. I was a [] year old woman who just "got through" life, struggling each day to muster the energy to go to work, []

[] I am now a woman who has the energy and health she needs for her demanding role as []

[] And Dr Skinner's professional judgement and treatment are entirely responsible for that.

If I had not sought help from Dr Skinner I would have retired from work due to ill health by now and would be living on welfare benefits and my savings. []

[]

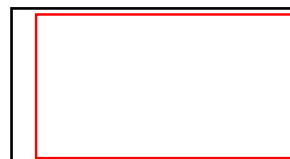
After [] years of treatment by Dr Skinner I am not only surviving. I am positively thriving.

In conclusion, I am asking you to take my testimony into account when you consider the allegations against Dr Skinner to ensure that he is given a fair and balanced hearing.

Yours sincerely,

[]

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St James Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6FQ



24th June 2007

Dr Gordon RB Skinner

Dear Sirs,

I would like to send this letter as my support for Dr Skinner prior to the hearing on the 2nd July 2007.

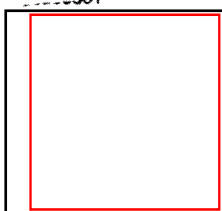
I have consulted Dr Skinner for over now and since I have been under his care for my Thyroid condition my health and quality of life has improved considerably.

Prior to seeing Dr Skinner I was not getting a response from the normal GP route and feel that his approach and technique is more holistic and fine tuned than just relying on blood test results.

He has my full support and backing and I can only hope that he can continue to practice.

Yours sincerely

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20 June 2007

RE: Dr Gordon Skinner

Dear Ms Collins

I am writing to you with reference to the forthcoming Fitness to Practice hearing regarding Dr Gordon Skinner. My name is and since seeing Dr Skinner years ago my life has changed dramatically for the better. I only wish I had seen him at the start of my illness in the year

Dr Skinner has been the only person who has been able to help me regain a sense of my life before I fell ill. He was the last on a list of medical and alternative health professionals all tasked with discovering what was making me feel so run down and utterly exhausted. All of them failed me except him. I suffered misdiagnosis after misdiagnosis until Dr Skinner's insight and wisdom exposed my underactive thyroid as the culprit.

Based on my experience Dr Skinner is entirely fit to continue practicing medicine and indeed the world would be losing out on a gifted, effective, not to mention kind practitioner if he was prevented from continuing his good work.

Yours Sincerely



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General Medical Council

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22.6.07

Dear Mr Collins

I'm writing this letter in support of Dr. Skinner, who I first consulted some twelve years ago. Up to that point I had become increasingly unwell, suffering from a bewildering number of symptoms, [redacted]

[redacted] Despite the best efforts of N.H.S. consultants, and I was referred to at least three [redacted]

[redacted] - no successful ^{diagnosis} was made. In the end I was simply told I had [redacted]

[redacted] and informed the medical progression could do nothing further for me.

Desperately unhappy and increasingly depressed with my failing health, I happened upon Dr. Skinner through one of his ex-patients. After a thorough consultation he diagnosed Hypothyroidism, and wrote to my G.P. after prescribing a small dosage of thyroxine, and despite the opposition of my G.P. who carried out a thyroid blood test and proclaimed it normal, my health slowly started to return.

Here, I would like to make a central point. Dr. Skinner employs an approach to medical diagnosis which I found completely at odds with previous ones I had met in the N.H.S. Firstly,

he was compassionate. Secondly, he took a comprehensive medical history, discovering for example that I had a family history of [redacted]. Thirdly, he examined three key indices of good health: basal temperature, pulse rate and blood pressure - something no other other medical professional had ever done. [redacted]

[redacted] In short, Dr. Skinner was the first professional I had encountered who carried out a comprehensive diagnosis, combining a common sense approach with undoubted expertise in the field of hypothyroidism. In addition, all his consultations were carried out in an extremely courteous and engaging manner. Dr. Skinner has always struck me as a shining example of the Hippocratic tradition, who practices with integrity, compassion and medical insight. Moreover, he is a man of genuine vocation and charisma, someone who dedicates his life to improving the health of others, many of whom like myself have been manifestly failed by the N.H.S.

I have therefore, been astounded to hear that Dr. Skinner has been asked to attend a 'Fitness to Practice' hearing, as I have always found him nothing short of today professional in all my dealings with him. This man should, instead, be lauded for his pioneering work and held up as a beacon to the rest of the medical establishment.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]



To: Patricia Collins
Investigation Officer, Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council, 5th Floor, St. James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6FQ

24th June 2007

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Dear Ms Collins
Re: Dr G R B Skinner MD (Hons), DSc, FRCPath, FRCOG

I last wrote to you on the 8th of June and have yet to receive a response, so just in case my letter has gone astray, I enclose it again for your comments.

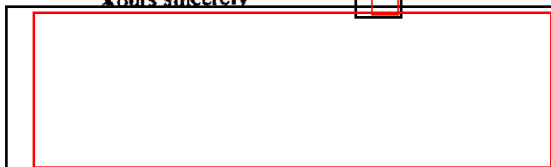
In the meantime, Dr. Skinner's FTP hearing is due to start on Monday the 2nd of July. I am therefore enclosing a 'STATEMENT OF TRUTH AND FACT' in support of Dr. Skinner, that I expect to be used as evidence in support of Dr. Skinner and I demand that it is read out at the forthcoming hearing.

Could you please confirm receipt of this letter and that it will be used in the way I have asked.

You will be well aware by now of the support that Dr. Skinner has from his patients. The reason for this is simple, he has returned his patients to good health. In my case he has restored the health of both my children and I can never thank him enough for this.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



STATEMENT OF TRUTH AND FACT

IN RESPECT OF DR. G R B SKINNER MD (HONS) DSc FRCPath FRCOG

This statement of truth and fact has been written in full support of Dr. G R B Skinner and is to be presented and read out as evidence at the forthcoming FTP hearing due to commence at the GMC Fitness to Practise Directorate, Manchester on the 2nd of July 2007.

I am the mother of identical twin daughters. Both daughters developed hypothyroidism in childhood, one after the other. It was some time before the first twin was diagnosed, since her condition was not recognised by the GPs at that time. However, eventually a diagnosis of hypothyroidism was made following a consultation with a paediatrician. Diagnosis of the second twin (who developed hypothyroidism a couple of years after the first twin) was made by the same paediatrician. This paediatrician prescribed thyroxine, which he said would be required for the rest of their lives. Were it not for his care, neither of my daughters would have developed normally, either physically or mentally.

Under the care of their paediatrician and his prescribing techniques, they both developed normally, they did well at school and eventually both graduated from University.

However in [redacted] (both my daughters this time) were asked by their GP to reduce their daily thyroxine dosage due to NHS concerns that their Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH) level was suppressed.

Within days of this reduction in their dosage both my daughters began to experience symptoms of under-treated hypothyroidism. This was reported to their Family Practice and blood tests were requested in order to monitor the situation.

Unfortunately, these tests led to their dosage being reduced even further and down to half of the dosage which they had taken since childhood.

However, this further reduction in their medication resulted in a continuation and accelerated decline in their health which proved to be catastrophic for them both.

[redacted] As their mother, I was sick with worry about them both.

My daughters wrote to Dr. Skinner and he wrote back and said that he would see them, provided they were referred by their GP. This was around [redacted].

I again accompanied my daughters to the local surgery where I requested an appointment to see their GP. My daughters were so very ill and I recall that one of [redacted]

[redacted] On seeing the GP, I told her that her treatment of my daughters just wasn't working and that there was a doctor who might be able to help. We provided her with contact details of Dr. Skinner and she referred both my daughters to him.

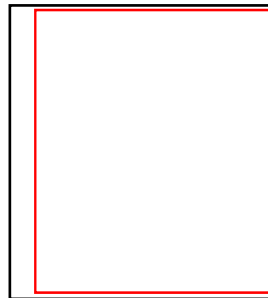
In [redacted] my daughters were taken to see Dr. Skinner. Dr. Skinner had first of all listened to what they had to say, he then questioned them further with regard to their signs, symptoms and family history and carried out a thorough examination. Dr. Skinner made necessary adjustments to their dosage and to their medication and put them on the road to recovery.

My daughters are now well again thanks to Dr. Skinner [redacted]

[redacted] The above would not have been possible if it were not for Dr. Skinner. I cannot thank him enough.

I write this statement of truth and fact and declare it to be an accurate and factual account of what has happened in relation to my daughters.

Ms. P. Collins
Investigating Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor, St. James's Buildings
79 Oxford St.
Manchester
M1 6FQ



23rd June 2007

Re: Dr Gordon R. B. Skinner/Fitness to Practise Hearing
(G.M.C.2nd July)

Dear Ms. Collins,

I wish to bring to your attention and therefore the attention of the attendees of the above hearing, how Dr Skinner has made a significant impact on my life through his diagnosis and treatment of my condition of hypothyroidism.

I suffered from this condition for many years. It affected many aspects of my daily life. I suffered from the following symptoms [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] I visited my G.P. suffering from the above and had the usual blood investigations ... "all within the normal range". I was given [redacted]

It was not until I attended my initial consultation with Dr Skinner, that I discovered my results (Thyroid function) were borderline. I returned to my GP with this information. He admitted that I had the symptoms of hypothyroidism, but as the blood results were not sufficiently low enough(!), he would not prescribe medication [redacted]

[redacted]

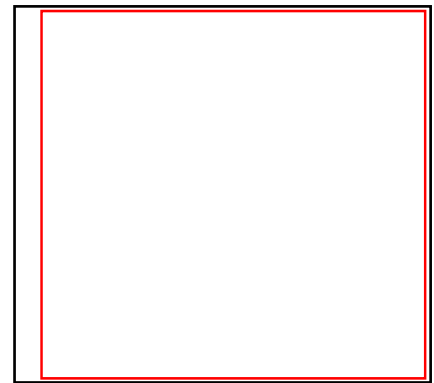
I find it hard to believe allegations that Dr Skinner has put his patients at risk, or prescribed inappropriately.

Through Dr. Skinner's treatment of the clinical symptoms of my condition, I returned to health and have maintained good health ... and a life, not just an existence. I have been a patient of Dr Skinner for [redacted] years. My health would, I feel, be prejudiced by the lack of thyroid medication.

Yours Faithfully,

[redacted]

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21.6.07

Dear Ms Collins

RE DR GORDON SKINNER

I'm writing to you to record my support for Dr Skinner.

I've had moderately severe [redacted] for

just over [redacted] years. In that time, I've been unable to

work and [redacted]

[redacted] The worst aspect has been the isolation as I've been unable to interact much with family and friends.

I have tried various treatment regimes, including following my GP's advice, but the only thing that has made the slightest difference [redacted] is the

thyroid treatment I've been on from Dr Skinner (since

[redacted]. Dr Skinner diagnosed hypothyroidism on the basis of my symptoms; my TSH, T3 and T4 were all within the normal range. I noticed an

improvement [redacted] within

[redacted] of starting thyroid treatment. Since then there have been further gradual improvements in

[redacted]

[redacted] The slow nature of these improvements is no doubt due to Dr Skinner's very cautious approach - the thyroid dose was increased very gradually every [redacted] until the optimum dose was reached. I have no doubt that if I carry on improving as I have already I will one day be able to return to a normal productive life.

I am concerned that you may prevent Dr Skinner from practising, and thereby deny patients like me a lifeline. Surely the improvement in my condition is cause for a celebration rather than a striking off?

The life of patients with undiagnosed hypothyroidism has aptly been described as 'Tears behind closed doors' in a book of that title. It seems that whether my life continues to progress - or reverts to utter exhaustion, frustration and isolation behind

closed doors - it is in your hands.

Yours sincerely



Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor St James's Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester M1 6FQ

24th June 2007

General Medical Council	
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Dear Ms Collins

A letter in support of Dr Gordon R B Skinner

After two painful and frustrating years seeking a solution to my failed health, it was this man who finally brought about my recovery.

In despite normal thyroid chemistry, he prescribed an incremental dose of thyroxine. My improvement was rapid and I was able to return to work, driving, exercising, gardening, socialising, in essence, I was living a normal life and thriving!

My GP was only too happy to make the initial referral to Dr Skinner and she is delighted with my transformation. So too is my Occupational Health Physician, my Line Manager and my family. Incidentally, every UK taxpayer should be delighted also, because I did not need to proceed with my initial application for Incapacity Benefit.

My first consultation lasted over an hour and a half, due entirely to Dr Skinner's meticulousness. It involved among other things:

- Completion of a detailed checklist of symptoms which would subsequently serve as a barometer of my progress.
- Several measurements of BP and heart rate.
- Examination under magnifying glass of my hair, skin and tongue.
- Actively involving my husband in garnering as much history as possible.

In addition, notes were made throughout and uniquely, mindful that due to I was having difficulty in expressing myself clearly, Dr Skinner paused on several occasions to clarify certain points, reassuring us that the information he had was completely accurate.

At the end of the consult, I was handed a sheet giving straightforward details of the incremental dosing, together with additional contact numbers should I have any questions.

The few times I have needed to contact the clinic the response has been prompt, clear and friendly. My past experience of private Consultants' after care has been that I have never progressed beyond their Secretary; the next appointment often a month hence, being the preferred arena in which to ask any questions. What a waste of everyone's time?

Four specialists, including two Endocrinologists acknowledged that I displayed numerous symptoms attributed to thyroid dysfunction. It was only Dr Skinner who was clinically astute enough to prescribe the hormone treatment. For that reason, I would like this letter to not only be testament to Dr Skinner's unique skill, but also to the dismal fallibility of thyroid function tests.

I believe that it is the unsound reliance upon TFTs that warrants investigation and certainly not Dr Skinner. Every day I thank and applaud him.

Yours sincerely

cc - Dr G R B Skinner
Mr R Shipway

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Ms. P. Collins
Investigation Officer,
General Medical Council,
5th Floor, St. James's
Buildings,
79 Oxford Street,
Manchester,
M1 6FQ.

24th June 2007

Dear Sirs,
Fitness to Practise Hearing, Gordon RB Skinner MD

I have been asked to write to you by my mother and sister, [redacted] who are both patients of Dr. Gordon Skinner and feel very strongly that his efforts on their behalf have greatly improved their quality of life.

Both suffered symptoms [redacted]

In my sister's case several blood tests had been requested in the early [redacted]'s but as these had all suggested normal thyroid function this line of inquiry was not pursued. She later read of Dr. Skinner's work in a book entitled "Tears Behind Closed Doors" by Diana Holmes and asked Dr. [redacted] for a referral in [redacted]. Following an examination, Dr. Skinner was also of the opinion that my sister suffered from thyroid deficiency and initially prescribed levothyroxin, changing this to [redacted] grain of Armour Thyroid daily after a period of a few months during which some improvement was observed. A further, gradual improvement was seen over the [redacted] following the change of prescription and she has since remained free of these symptoms.

My mother had accompanied my sister when attending Dr. Skinner's clinic and was recommended to consult her G.P. as she had suffered similar symptoms since the late [redacted]'s. [redacted]

[redacted] On consulting Dr. [redacted] a blood test was requested and although this also returned a normal result he prescribed a small dose of triiodothyronine (she does not recall the actual dosage) with instructions to report any changes in her condition. When she began feeling more unwell some weeks later she was referred to Dr. Skinner who examined her in [redacted]. Dr. Skinner diagnosed hypothyroidism and prescribed one grain of Armour Thyroid daily which has produced a similar improvement in her health to that seen in my sister.

There is a family history of thyroid dysfunction, both my mother's aunt and sister have been diagnosed as such, and I understand that our G.P.s and Dr. Skinner have considered this a relevant fact in their considerations.

Neither my mother nor sister have suffered any apparent ill-effects as a result of the treatment they have received and both are very supportive of the actions taken by Dr. Skinner and our G.P.'s in working so effectively together to produce such a great improvement in their health.

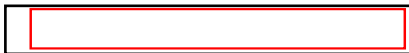
Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

c.c. Dr. Skinner

[redacted]

Mr. R. Shipway,
Radcliffes Le Brasseur,
5 Great College Street,
Westminster,
London.
SW1P 3JS.



23rd June, 2007.

Dear Ms. Collins,

Re. Dr. Gordon R.B. Skinner

I am writing to you in order to lend support to Dr. Skinner who has a Fitness to Practice hearing on the 2nd July.

I was in very poor health when I first attended his clinic for treatment, but due to his understanding of the physical signs of Hypothyroidism together with the blood tests, he prescribed Armour thyroid. My health started to improve within weeks.

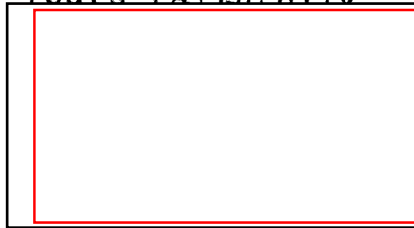
Dr. Skinner wrote to my G.P. at all times and kept him up-to-date with the treatment. I have a quarterly blood test and my G.P. supplies a copy of all the results which I send to Dr. Skinner.

I have no problems with the Armour and am now stable and my physical signs are resolved.

/over

I know that at all times if I need to discuss any problems with Dr. Skinner he is available on the phone if I am unable to attend his clinic.

Yours faithfully



Mrs P Collins,
Investigating Officer,
General Medical Council,
5th Floor, St. James,
79 Oxford St.,
MANCHESTER M1 6FQ

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23rd June 2007

Ms. P. Collins
Investigation Officer
Fitness to Practise Directorate
General Medical Council
5th Floor, St. James Buildings
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins

Re: Doctor Gordon Skinner, Fitness to Practice 2nd July 2007

I understand that you are the investigation officer for Dr Skinner's above-mentioned FTP. I attach to this my letter of 24th June 2005 sent to Adam Elliott prior to the IOP held on 29th June 2005.

My comments in that letter still stand and I request that they are taken into account at the forthcoming FTP together with my further comments below.

In the last two years my health has continued to improve under Dr Skinner's care. ☐

I am appalled that the actions of the GMC, responsible for promoting and protecting 'the health of the public by ensuring proper standards in medicine', firstly should place GPs in the position that mine feels she is in, and secondly should disadvantage those of us who are Dr Skinner's patients by forcing us abroad for treatment. That this results from what is very obviously a difference of academic opinion between doctors here, merely compounds the wrong, most especially when taking into account the numbers of patients whom Dr Skinner has helped back to health.

I would urge you to ensure that the members of the FTP panel carry out their duties, and reach a just decision, in the light of all evidence presented - by doctors, lawyers, researchers and patients – and not just on the basis of the ‘political’ issues which are so very apparent, and furthermore that they consider the future plight of those of us who are Dr Skinner’s patients

Yours sincerely

cc Mr R Shipway RadcliffesLeBrasseur
Dr M Dudley MPS

Mr Ralph Shipway,
Raddcliffes Le Brasseur
5 Great College Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3SJ

21 June 2007

To whom it may concern

Re: [redacted]

I have been asked by my friend [redacted] to comment on her recent improvement in health. I do so as a close friend of more than [redacted] years but with no medical knowledge.

[redacted]
[redacted] She then became ill herself with Graves disease. The disease and then the treatment for it seemed to leave her a shadow of her former self.

We have noticed a huge improvement in her general well being recently. She seems on an even keel emotionally and physically, has dealt well with two operations last year (she came to stay with us immediately after one), and has the confidence and ability to [redacted]
[redacted] She is feeling well and enjoying life again.

I know that she worries about the health of her daughter who also suffers from thyroid problems and hopes that she will be able to benefit from similar treatment.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Dr Gordon Skinner Fitness to Practise July 2 – 13 Manchester

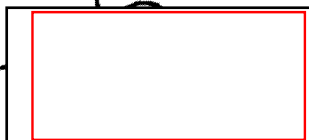
I am writing to acknowledge the success Dr Skinner has had in a) recognising the shortcomings in my mother's treatment for hypothyroidism before she saw him and then successfully treating her and b) recognising more recently my sister's hypothyroid state and setting up a regime of treatment for her.

My mother is now on very good form after over years of treatment, and I understand my sister is starting to benefit from her thyroxine treatment.

My point is this: if everybody takes standard practice for granted, medical science would not progress. If the GMC is serious about Dr Skinner's alleged malpractice while also upholding the reputation of the medical profession, it might commission research into the area of diagnosis and treatment of thyroid illness, as it were, to prove Dr Skinner wrong. This would be the decent thing rather than defaming someone who is dedicated to helping people. Moreover, it might answer the 2,500 people who signed a petition and took it to the GMC and asked for such research.

One could look at the situation cynically and see that many of the symptoms of thyroid problems could easily be misdiagnosed by standard practice, and treated with expensive drugs sold by some of the biggest pharmaceutical companies. Or one could look at the GMC and think that here is a man who threatens the status quo. But neither of these could be true, could they?

Speaking for our family, Dr Skinner is not only fit to practise but is an example to medical professionals that standard practice is not always best practice and specialisms all work within the same human body.



23 June 2007

copy.



20th June 2007

Ms P Collins,
Investigation Office,
General Medical Council,
5th Floor,
St James's Buildings,
79 Oxford Street,
Manchester.
M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins,

Re: Dr. G R B Skinner - Fitness to Practise

I feel I must write and let you know what a great help Dr Skinner has been to me.


After nearly [] years of feeling unwell, []
[] Dr Skinner has diagnosed me as having an under active thyroid having taken account of the symptoms I was suffering from and started me on medication which has without doubt improved the quality of my life.

I have found him to be extremely knowledgeable, kind, caring, sympathetic and a doctor who really listened to me. Dr Skinner has kept my GP fully informed of the treatments he has recommended.



Without the help of Dr Skinner I am absolutely certain that I would not be living with the quality of life I have now.

Yours sincerely,



Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor
St James's Buildings
79 Oxford St
Manchester M1 6FQ



25 June 2007

In confidence

Dear Ms Collins

Dr Gordon RB Skinner - GMC Fitness to Practise Hearing 2 July 2007

I am writing in respect of Dr Skinner's fitness to practice hearing.

Before becoming a patient of Dr Skinner, I did not feel that advice I had received from General Practitioners was appropriate to my condition. Since then, Dr Skinner's advice and support has significantly helped my health and general well-being. I am concerned that he is subject to the fitness to practise process. To conclude, from a patient's point of view, the loss of his advice and support to me will be considerable, and I am concerned that future patients will lose out also.

Yours sincerely

cc Dr Skinner
Mr R Shipway



26 June 2007

01698 340033

Dear Mr P Collins

Please find
enclosed copys of letters sent
in Dr Skinners defence.

I have also enclosed
copys of letters previously sent
I had forgot to date these. So
I have put an approximate date
on these.

Yours Sincerely

26 June 2007

Dear Sir or Madam

My name is

I am writing in defence of Dr
Skinner.

I attended Dr Skinner in
[redacted] after some years of attending my
G.P. with one drug and another.

As a result of his recommen-
dations my G.P. prescribed Thyroxine
as a result of the Thyroxine and
some Armour from Dr Skinner, I
have restored quality of life and
I work full time.

The fears of my G.P. at the time, were that I ran the risk of early Osteoporosis and early Heart Disease.

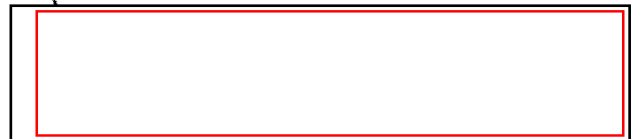
As years have now passed, I consider myself to be an ideal spokesperson in defence of Dr Skinner, and request I be given the opportunity.

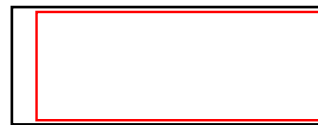
My G.P. initial fears have been unfounded.

I have contacted your office
by phone regarding this matter.
At present there is no clear
reply from yourself.

I do hope my request
to speak is considered, and a
reply sent soon.

Yours sincerely





27th June 2007

Ms P Collins
Investigation Officer
General Medical Council
5th Floor, St James's Buildings
79 Oxford street
Manchester M1 6FQ

Dear Ms Collins

Gordon R B Skinner MD (Hons) DSc FRCPath FRCOG

As a patient of Dr Skinner for the last eight years I am concerned to learn of your forthcoming investigation into his work.

I am a retired [redacted] [redacted] years ago I was aware that my health was declining rapidly following two viral illnesses. Prior to that I was showing signs of hypothyroidism. I had sought help from my GP, who was not very forthcoming – my TSH levels being "normal". [redacted], I am aware that some biochemical tests have their parameters of normality set empirically and with the upsurge in litigation on medical issues one can understand medics being wary of taking a more holistic view. However, as time went on I was not able to work, walk or do very much other than sleep. [redacted]



I continued to languish until a set of circumstances occurred which introduced me to Dr Skinner. Thank God!

This good doctor not only looked at the blood test results, he went through a panoply of other tests and subjected me to some very detailed and searching questions (as he does with all his patients). He took the holistic approach, seeing the entire person, background, medical history and lifestyle included.

To cut a long story short, after a course of Armour Thyroid, my health improved very considerably. I also tried the NHS synthetic thyroxine medication, but did not

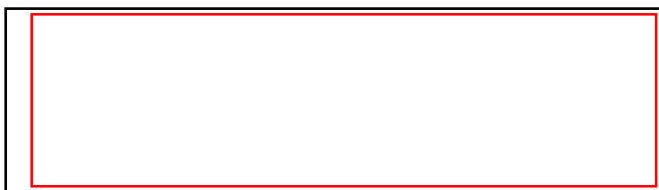
find this as easy to assimilate or regulate and, therefore, returned to the use of Armour Thyroid. Dr Skinner has kept my GP appraised of my progress scrupulously, following my regular consultations with him.

I have total faith in Dr Gordon Skinner, as his patient and as a scientist. I have always found his behaviour to be professional, completely correct and always orientated towards the interests of his patients. I pledge him my total support and would ask you to seriously consider whether or not there are questions to answer at all!

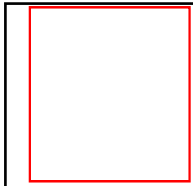
Just a point: so often have the pioneers in many disciplines i.e. those who have had a progressive effect on the civilising of mankind, been those who could 'think outside the box'.

I owe to Dr Gordon Skinner my health, my sanity and the chance of a relatively normal life.

Yours sincerely



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24.6.07

Dear Ms Collins,

I would like the following to be read out at Dr Skinner's hearing:

I have been a patient of Dr Skinner for a number of years and have had a great improvement in my health and energy during this time.

If Dr Skinner is not allowed to continue to practise freely, many patients will suffer seriously and many doctors will continue under the misapprehension that blood tests are sufficient and will ignore clinical signs of hypothyroidism. There is an urgent need to recognise and treat hypothyroid patients for whom the blood test is an insufficient indicator. Moreover many doctors will not have the courage to prescribe as they know they ought.

Dr Skinner is an exceptionally caring, hard working and skilled doctor. Has he stirred some professional jealousy within the medical profession? There seems to be no other explanation for the way he has been treated by the GMC in recent years.

Yours sincerely,





25.6.07

Dear Ms. Collins,

I wish the following letter to be read out at the FTP regarding Dr Skinner:

In [redacted] I received a helpful letter from [redacted]

[redacted] with reference to the management of hypothyroidism. Amongst others, he made the following points:

1. At present it is considered good medical practice to rely on clinical history and examination in addition to blood tests in the diagnosis of hypothyroidism.
2. The Medicines Act 1968 makes provision for doctors to prescribe an unlicensed medicine to meet the needs of an individual patient, on their own responsibility, where they judge the benefit to the patient is justified and outweighs the risk of the unlicensed product. (This would include for example a natural thyroid extract not normally available on the NHS)
3. The National Service Framework for Longterm conditions (10th March 2005) mentions the need among others for a) prompt diagnosis and b) person-centered care and choice.

A consultation with Dr Skinner would ensure both these conditions (a and b). In most cases these are not possible using an NHS doctor or consultant who would depend solely on laboratory tests. In my own case, in spite of extreme illness, my own GP and a hospital consultant failed to diagnose my hypothyroidism. Dr Skinner was eventually "discovered" and he returned me to good health owing to his clinical expertise.

It is inconceivable that such an excellent doctor should have his career put in jeopardy and his profession lose such a valuable man.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

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Ref. Dr. Gordon R.B. Skinner, Fitness to
Practice hearing of the General Medical Council.

I write this letter in support of Dr. Skinner. Dr. Skinner has rescued me from the 'deep pit', caused by an untreated condition, an underactive thyroid gland. I have suffered increasingly from the effects of this condition, it has blighted my life and had a damaging effect on the lives of my husband and family for almost [redacted] years.

Many doctors have recognised the symptoms of my hypothyroid condition. Several General Practitioners at my practice, Hospital Doctors and Consultants and also a Professor of Medicine - Endocrinology - at Hospital [redacted] It was stated that I had many features of Hypothyroidism but the cause of my problems was only [redacted]

He was my last hope, I was desperate! He then stated that he and his fellow endocrinologists were trying to have doctors banned, who treated patients symptoms without proper test results...!!

Remember these tests were not fully carried out, only the T.S.H. Tests. A Rheumatologist, General Specialist nerve conduction studies and many, many blood tests

My life has been ruined by tests. Test which showed that I did not have a thyroid problem when symptoms indicated that I did. Treatment with Thyroxin has proved this to be true.

Dr Skinner has proved to be thorough in his examination and taking a detailed history of my condition before making a diagnosis. (The first consultation lasted well over an hour). He informed my G.P. and involved her in my treatment. Dr Skinner has provided an emergency phone number and has contacted me to provide reassurance. I trust him to continue to resolve my thyroid problems. (If he is allowed to.)

History is littered with doctors who have been 'hounded out' for not having followed the line of the 'medical hierarchy'. I hope the G.M.C. will not copy the practice in the case of Dr Skinner. As far as I am concerned, he give back my life and hope! He has rescued me from a life which was not worth living! I was left in this conditions because 'test results' have become more important than symptoms, however inaccurate they are as a diagnostic tool.

did not show the cause of my problems, while ignoring the obvious symptoms of hypothyroidism, because my T.H.S. was 'normal'.

- Who decided what is 'normal'?
- On what basis were these 'norms' decided?
- Why were the T3 and T4 tests not carried out, even when specifically requested by my G.P.?
- What is 'normal'?
- 'Normal' varies from person to person.
- Is it not time these 'norms' were reviewed, especially in the light of growing evidence that people with 'normal' test results are very sick?

The cost to the N.H.S. must be enormous, because each patient is subjected to a barrage of tests. The cost to the patient and their family is greater, in terms of pain and suffering and also loss of earnings. Many like me have been forced by illhealth to give up working and in my case a much loved profession [redacted]. The lost years will never come back.

Why are so many in the medical profession so determined to prevent doctors such as, Dr. Skinner treating patients based on symptoms? I really cannot understand? Although I am only partway through the treatment programme, my health is much improved. [redacted]

[redacted]

What is probably worse is the attitude of doctors! Fed up with a patient's repeated visits, because of their worsening condition, they suggest that they are depressed and force antidepressants on them. Antidepressants make the situation much worse, [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted]

'Test results', now, seem the only trusted diagnostic tools trusted, while ignoring the overwhelming evidence of symptoms - eg Urine tests for Type II Diabetes or in this case Thyroid Stimulating Hormones for Hypothyroidism.

I trust that the evidence I have presented will help you to conclude that Dr Skinner is 'fit to practice' His Service is absolutely essential for many desperate patients, like myself, where the N.H.S. has failed.

The General Medical Council should be investigating Dr. Skinner to discover why he is so successful when treating patients with hypothyroidism, patients the N.H.S. has failed.

The N.H.S. could learn a lot from Dr Skinner and save vast amounts of money, as well as saving thousands of women from the pain and suffering of Hypothyroidism.

Yours sincerely,

