

Press release 22 February 2010 – for immediate release

Patients' have no say in investigation!

The results of a so called 'evidence check' into the effectiveness of homeopathy have just been released, and they reveal an extraordinarily narrow view of what constitutes 'evidence'. For one thing, no one has bothered to ask patients what their experience of homeopathy has been. In fact, the patients' voice has been totally excluded from this investigation!

On 22 February 2010, Phil Willis, Chair of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee (HoC S&TC) said claims for homeopathy are not based on sound science. This is an astonishing conclusion. The Committee was presented with hundreds of positive trials, thousands of hospital reports, information about a successful mass immunisation programme in Cuba, examples of homeopathy being used successfully to treat animals, and a recent pilot project in Northern Ireland, which showed homeopathy to be efficacious and cost efficient. **This is all evidence that shows homeopathy works!**

The conclusions of the S&T Committee are so one sided, it seems doubtful that they actually read any of the submissions presented to them. We know that at least one member of the Committee belongs to a self appointed pressure group, determined to undermine homeopathy. We've just had the parliamentary expenses scandal, now it appears that taxpayers money has been used to convene a parliamentary special committee which has been subverted by known anti homeopathy activists. Furthermore, this group seems to have been so focused on pursuing one particular agenda, that they left the patients' experience out of the equation altogether! **Why weren't patients allowed a say in this enquiry?**

An estimated six million people in the UK alone use homeopathy, and they know it works, yet they are being totally ignored. If Government acts upon the recommendations of this myopic Committee, thousands of patients will be denied the choice of healthcare delivery they have a right to expect within the NHS. **In short, if they can't afford to pay for their homeopathic treatment privately, they'll have to go without!**

Government spends around £4,000,000 a year on homeopathy in the NHS, out of a total bill of over £110 billion. Time and time again homeopathy has been shown to reduce the need for patients to resort to expensive conventional treatments. The question this Committee should have been asking is: **'How can the NHS afford NOT to use homeopathy as part of integrated approach to healthcare delivery?'**

This is a sad day for patients, democracy, homeopathy and genuine scientific enquiry!

ENDS

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THE ALLIANCE OF REGISTERED HOMEOPATHS INFORMATION FOR EDITORS

The Alliance of Registered Homeopaths (ARH) is a UK professional organisation that supports and promotes a high standard of safe, effective homeopathic practice. It currently represents over 700 practising homeopaths.

We are committed to:

- ensuring that quality homeopathy is available to all who wish to use it
- raising public awareness of the potential of homeopathic treatment
- encouraging a high standard of education for homeopaths
- supporting the ongoing professional development of our Members
- encouraging co-operation between our Members and other healthcare professionals, for the benefit of patients
- engaging in research, publishing and other activities that enhance our understanding of homeopathy
- acting as an information base for the general public.