



A democratic alternative to the monarchy

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Charity Commission Direct
PO Box 1227
Liverpool
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask the Charity Commission to investigate The Prince's Foundation for Integrated Health (FIH), charity number 1026800.

I believe there is evidence that the FIH's activities have seriously called into question the charity's independence and risked its reputation. Furthermore, I believe there is the appearance of a conflict of interest.

1. The charity's independence has been seriously called into question

In article in The Times, dated March 3 2010, it was reported that the University of Exeter unit headed by Edzard Ernst, Professor of Complementary Medicine, would shut unless a new financial backer could be found. (See <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/science/medicine/article7047382.ece>).

Professor Ernst blamed his department's uncertain future on a lack of support from his university since he received a formal complaint from Sir Michael Peat, then Chair of the Foundation for Integrated Health, five years ago. The complaint was apparently in response to remarks Ernst had made about the Smallwood report advocating complementary medicine.

Sir Michael was - and still is - private secretary to HRH The Prince of Wales, who is honorary President of the FIH but not a Trustee. A spokeswoman for the Prince assured The Times that "Sir Michael had complained about Professor Ernst in his capacity as chairman of the Prince's Foundation for Integrated Health, and not at the Prince's behest."

However, since the report was published Professor Ernst has claimed that the complaint was, in fact, printed on Clarence House letterhead. This suggests that the complaint came from Prince Charles rather than from the FIH. Further investigation reveals that the Smallwood report was commissioned by Prince Charles and not by the FIH.

This evidence suggests that FIH may be acting in the interests of its President (an honorary position with no legal accountability) rather than under the governance of its Trustee board.

2. The charity has seriously risked its reputation by pursuing a vendetta against Professor Ernst



Dr Michael Dixon, a Trustee of the FIH, wrote a vitriolic attack on Professor Ernst on the Pulse website in which he referred to Ernst as "a leading member of science's militant tendency". (See <http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=19&storycode=4125317>).

He went on to say "Professor Ernst is not interested in whether the patient gets better. He wants doctors to serve science first and our patients last, inhabiting a grey and nihilistic desert that denies the role of the doctor as healer and condemns us to being slaves of population-based statistical totalitarianism."

This kind of attack risks embroiling the charity in a personal dispute which could damage its reputation and undermine its ability to achieve its stated objects.

3. There is the appearance of a conflict of interest

The above issues relate to the efficacy of homeopathic remedies, with the FIH forcefully advocating for their use in the National Health Service. It is of great concern therefore that Robert Wilson, Chairman of A. Nelson and Company Limited ("the UK's leading manufacturer of natural healthcare products") is listed as a Trustee of the FIH in its most recent annual report.

I confirm that you may tell the charity that I am the complainant and put my complaint directly to the charity.

Yours sincerely

Graham Smith
Campaign Manager
Republic