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Ms M Ewings  
Professional Practice Committee  
General Medical Council  
178 Great Portland Street  
London W1N 6JE

11/11/2000

**Complaint re Lord Winston**

Dear Ms Ewings

Please find enclosed a PS to the letter that I sent you earlier this week, which unfortunately did not come out on the copy that I sent you earlier this week,

PS sent separately;-

Addendum Re my complaint against Lord Winston

The programme researchers told me during the course of their telephone interviews with me prior to the broadcast that the identity of their medical advisor, who had discovered the alleged problem with the uterus and who had criticised my management to the programme researchers, had to remain confidential. Lord Winston's role in the Philippa Langton affair was unsuspected until months after the broadcast when I complained to Central Television and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission. I was thus branded in public by an unknown accuser. No professional body could consider the star chamber manner of making accusations about a professional colleague's medical diagnosis and management to public media journalists, and cloaking his identity to that colleague, anything other than gross professional misconduct. I thought that part of the reason historically for the setting up of the GMC over a century ago was precisely to prevent physicians 'slagging off' colleague's medical practice in public, let alone behind their back.

I believe that Lord Winston was so sure of anonymity that he felt he could get away with his claim to the BMJ, weeks after the broadcast, in which he brazenly denied having anything to do with the Cook Report's treatment of me.

Addendum Re patient confidentiality

Lord Winston failed to produce the patient's Hammersmith Hospital medical records in Discovery. However, a copy of the full Hammersmith Hospital medical records was obtained in routine Discovery from the Cook Report almost immediately afterwards. They had these records in their possession during the making of the public broadcast in which the status of Philippa Langton's uterus featured so prominently. The medical records were therefore, inter alia, already in the public arena and confidentiality cannot now be considered a primary issue.

Once again, I would point out that the Hammersmith Hospital medical detail is quoted heavily in my witness statement and in those of other physician's witness statements on my side – yet I was fully entitled to forward these to the GMC as key components of my complaint and there was no court qualification in this respect. Accordingly, I cannot conceive of any practical confidentiality issue in having forwarded to the GMC a photocopy of the relevant part of Lord Winston's Hammersmith Hospital medical record relating to these quotes.

As you know, I have contacted the GMC on several occasions re advice and guidance on this issue but none was given other than I should refer to the GMC booklet. I have done so, and believe that the content and documentation of my complaint fall within the GMC guidelines.

Yours sincerely



Jack Glatt MB MRCP MRCOG