

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Professor David Miller University of Strathclyde Department of Geography and Sociology Graham Hills Building 50 Richmond Street Glasgow G1 1XU

Our Ref: MILL01005/01080011/sv

08 January 2008

Dear Professor Miller

Thank you for your letter, please accept my apologies for a delayed response which is due to staffing issues over Christmas.

In short the answer is no, I was absolutely not aware of this connection and my initial reaction is to be pretty cheesed off. I am also very concerned about the origin of these large donations.

It can be necessary when campaigning in healthcare to accept money from large, often pharmaceutical, companies. The annual conference of the All Party Group on Cancer of which I am Chair is an example. However we take equal amounts of unrestricted sponsorship money from a number of sources which we then clearly publicise. If it emerges that the TOAST money has come from one source and that people with vested interests have been involved then there is cause for concern.

How do you propose we proceed? Would you like me to write to TOAST and ask where these donations came from?

Yours sincerely

Dr Ian Gibson

MP for Norwich North

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