

## DISCLAIMER – TPA-UK Hypothyroid Patient Survey

In view of Dawn Wood's persistence, aided and abetted by Andrew Clark in making unfounded claims to copyright ownership in regard to the Hypothyroid Patient Survey, owned and copyrighted to TPA-UK, and in view of the fact that my solicitor has, in a letter to Dawn Wood, refuted her claims on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006, she has put me in a position where I have no alternative but to rebut her claim publicly, in the way that she has done on her website, in order to defend the reputation of my medical advisers, myself and the integrity of TPA-UK and its members.

Before I did this, I gave Dawn Wood and Andrew Clark three choices, which are as follows:

1. Remove the statement from her website with immediate effect (at the latest by the end of Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2008).
2. Keep the statement on her website - but in the interest of fairness - include my responses. This should be done by copying and pasting (untouched)- the attachment I sent to them both with my responses interspersed.
3. Keep her statement there unaltered.

According to which choice she made, I declared my own three choices as follows:

1. If the statement is removed without question or explanation on her website, I would draw a line under this.
2. If she added the attachment I sent showing my responses (untouched) on her website, I would draw a line under this
3. If the original statement remains unaltered on her website – I would have no choice but to publish her statement and my responses on my website - with an explanation as to reason she has forced me to do this.

Below is Andrew Clark's Statement (in black) with my responses (in green).

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Written by Andrew  
Wednesday 18th June 2008

*["http://www.tpa-uk.org.uk/tpauk\\_hypothyroidsurvey.php"](http://www.tpa-uk.org.uk/tpauk_hypothyroidsurvey.php)*

*The idea for TPA-UK to compile a Hypothyroid Patient Survey originated from the Medical Advisory Service (MAS) to whom we are grateful. This survey was created by members of the TPA-UK Forum, who contributed all of the questions. This survey was created 'in common' for a 'common good' and was peer reviewed by Dr Barry Durrant-Peatfield, Patron and Medical Adviser to TPA-UK. The final version was agreed with all members before it was passed to NSM Research (Market Researches) for analysis and presentation, who then drew up the questionnaire for distribution."*

I'm not usually one to make an issue of things....but all I can say is....What a lot of rubbish !!.

**No comment.**

While Thyroid-Disease welcomes the (sic) significance of this extra data for thyroid patients everywhere, we deplore the way that it has been presented and the exclusion of Dawn Wood for any credit for her work in creating and masterminding the whole survey process

**INCORRECT**

**Dawn Wood did NOT “create or mastermind” the “whole survey process”. None of the people who participated in the creation of the said survey asked for credit apart from Dawn Wood. One person alone could not have produced this survey, nor funded it. It was a collaboration of many members of TPA and others.**

The actual survey was thought up by Dawn Wood and her initial drafts of it was(sic) put up on the old TPA Yahoo group in November 2004. Initially it was a survey of the Yahoo TPA members.

#### **INCORRECT**

**The TPA-UK survey was NEVER a survey of Yahoo TPA-UK members only. It was a national survey from the start and was advertised by me in all the UK national and local newspapers, also I wrote to the owners of many UK thyroid and thyroid related websites and advertised in many health magazines . TPA published an original DRAFT version and Dawn Wood collated the information gleaned from messages sent to the forum by members of TPA-UK, Dr Peatfield and myself. She volunteered her services for the benefit of TPA-UK.**

**The original idea came from Kathy McGrath of The Medical Advisory Service (MAS). I would draw your attention to an extract from an email Dawn Wood sent to me (see below), where she states, categorically, that the original idea came from elsewhere.**

*“...those were just **her(Kathy McGrath) thoughts on ways to go with this I.e stuff she (Kathy McGrath) has done with other drug campaigns** and how to get info out there for cheap BTW as she is going to teh LTMCA meeting anyway (and she gets In free which we may not as yet) she says she will act on our behalf and collect useful names data etc if that is ok One of her pals is the statistician at Sheffield Uni for teh NHS research dept and collects all teh data on what misdiagnosis of an illness costs the NHS **she (Kathy McGrath) suggests we (TPA-UK) conduct a large survey to that effect I.e years of being ill, put on wrong drugs such as anti-depressants, infertility, scans etc all which could have been prevented by correct thyroid diagnosis and treatment and is happy to help us (TPA-UK) set that up (she has a contact health reporter at the Daily mail and suggests an article, backed up by one of our (TPA-UK) specialists and then an address for people to send a questionnaire to. This seems like a good idea to me as a patient survey which although not scientific she thinks would help the cause...”***

After some feedback and comments she rewrote and expanded the survey and with some advice from her friend Kathy Mcgrath, looked to expanding it into a fuller, wider national survey.

#### **INCORRECT – see above...**

Dawn put together several drafts, between February and May 2005, giving people a chance to look at the questions and offer opinions and advice as to what questions needed asking or altering.

#### **INCORRECT**

**Because of the nature of the survey, many questions came from TPA-UK members, TPA-UK moderators, other interested parties and Dr peatfield and this necessitated re-drafting the original questionnaire many times. Dr Peatfield peer reviewed all of the questions in order to decide which should, or should not be included and added some of his own. DW had no involvement in such a decision.**

Dawn brought in NSM Research to format the questions into a publishable survey(sic) format and to deal with the data processing of the completed forms.

#### **INCORRECT**

**Kathy McGrath suggested NSM Research to Dawn Wood and, in turn, Dawn Wood suggested NSM to me, as owner of TPA (\*see message from DW to me regarding the original idea of a survey).**

Sheila Turner contributed to the cost of running the survey from a grant from Awards for All,

because she was awarded £4,000 rather than the £2,000 she expected to get. Dawn had been made bankrupt at this time from her thyroid illness, and would have been inellegible(sic) to apply for the grant.

#### **INCORRECT**

**Sheila Turner paid for the whole cost of the survey (adding in £1000 of her own money). She was granted an award from UnLtd Millennium Awards of £4900. Dawn Wood being bankrupt had nothing whatsoever to do with my application.**

From May to July 2005, Dawn rewrote the questions into their final published form after feedback and suggestions from a few people(sic) at TPA.

#### **INCORRECT**

**Dawn Wood did not “rewrite” the questions into their final version. She edited the questions AFTER feedback and suggestions from a few people, including Dr Peatfield, who peer reviewed all the questions before publication.**

Nobody else actually did the writing, they merely offered corrections to spelling or suggestions to improve the way questions were asked. Dawn did all the work and liaising(sic) with NSM Research.

#### **INCORRECT**

**Dawn Wood offered her services to collate all the information, and of necessity, there were many redrafts which had to be checked by other members to correct spelling, syntax and grammatical errors. Dawn Wood did not do “all the work and liaising with NSM Research”. I have all the correspondence between NSM Research and myself. As I was paying for the survey from my UnLtd Award, it was essential that I had a close liaison with them, especially for the UnLtd Awards accounts department who inspected my books every 3 months throughout the year. As Dawn Wood kept sending messages to NSM, which caused great confusion, I was asked by them to stop her from doing this and told they wished to deal with me only.**

Dawn put together the publicity material to go out with the survey going public and brought MAS (Medical Advisory Service) in to run a telephone help line to coincide with the publicity.

#### **INCORRECT**

**See above re the creation of national publicity with newspapers, magazines and UK thyroid websites. This amounted to contacting over 300 organisations. Dawn Wood drafted a covering letter to go out to all those wishing to take part in the survey explaining our need to do this. This letter was compiled from information collected on the TPA-UK forum. This also necessitated the need for much editing for syntax, grammar, spelling and content and again, several drafts were completed until the final draft was agreed by Lee Appleyard and Sheila Turner. Correspondence copies can be made available to Dawn Wood’s solicitor.**

The survey was published and downloadable online marked with Dawn's name as the author.

#### **CORRECT**

**Dawn Wood (without seeking my permission) asked NSM Research to mark each page of the survey with large embedded letters from the bottom left corner of each page to the top right corner. This read “Copyright TPA-UK/Dawn Wood 2005”. I asked NSM to remove this and to write “Copyright Thyroid Patient Advocacy-UK 2005” in the bottom left corner of each page in small letters and, in an attempt to appease Dawn Wood, AC, BR and myself decided we would write in the bottom left hand corner of each page, "Author Dawn Wood". This did and does not give Dawn Wood ownership of the**

**copyright.**

Now you all might be wondering what this has to do with the actual survey and its results. I was working alongside Dawn and saw the amount of effort and energy she put into this project

**Many people put in an enormous amount of effort and energy into this project, including myself – without the need to claim publicity.**

...and the amount of grief it caused her when the survey was published.

**This survey was carried out by patients for patients. Everybody, as far as I am aware, was delighted when the survey was published. Dawn Wood is the only person who was grieved by it.**

This site and its forum came into being shortly after the survey in August 2005 when a lot of people departed TPA because of its heavy handed treatment of the people putting in their effort freely.

**CORRECT**

**Nobody, apart from Dawn Wood and yourself has ever complained to me of any “heavy handed treatment of the people putting in their effort freely”. We did, however, at that time, have a number of ‘aliases’ posing as genuine members, who “complained”, but who were later found to be using aliases. I removed several of these ‘aliases’ knowing their published intent was to stop the work that TPA-UK (and me in particular) were doing at that time. One of those removed was yourself, as you are aware. Posting this particular misleading and incorrect statement on Dawn Wood’s website about the TPA-UK Hypothyroid Survey is a prime example of the need to remove you and like-minded people from our forum and, if you call that “heavy handed treatment”, that is your opinion. As far as I am aware, Dawn Wood and yourself are the ONLY two people deliberately attempting to publicly bring my reputation, and that of TPA-UK into disrepute.**

**Although I have all the correspondence from inception to completion of the TPA-UK Hypothyroid Patients Survey, as you have, none of our Emails posted on the forum at that time can be used as ‘evidence’, as each one has to be verified by Head Office at Yahoo, because of the possibility these could have been ‘tampered’ with, and this is an extremely costly business. As my previous Yahoo TPA-UK forum was hijacked by a ruthless ‘gang’ (of which both yourself and Dawn Wood were very active members) with the intention of ruining the work that TPA-UK and myself were involved in at that time - my solicitor, after numerous telephone calls and correspondence, managed to reclaim the original Yahoo forum through his contact with Yahoo Head Office and it was brought back into my ownership. Because of the abuse in the messages of that hijacked forum, my moderators, my co-owner and myself decided to delete it into the ether. Therefore, some of the emails you mention here cannot be verified. The other Email messages sent privately by either party would also have to be verified by the ISP. I would suggest you ask Dawn Wood to clarify this situation with her Solicitor and Head Office at Yahoo.**

Indeed, shortly after this site came online Dawn received a letter from Sheila's solicitors warning her to remove the survey from the site. Dawn never received(sic) a reply back to her answering letter.

[http://thyroid-disease.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=13&Itemid=88](http://thyroid-disease.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=13&Itemid=88)

**Had Dawn Wood wanted a letter back from my solicitors, I would suggest that she pays for his services in the same way that anybody else employs and pays for the services of a solicitor.**

**Please note in the letter to you from my solicitor, that he states categorically that the copyright of the survey belongs with TPA. A more direct route to my solicitors letter is here [http://thyroid-disease.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=2](http://thyroid-disease.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=16&Itemid=2)**

Dawn has recently been in contact with Sheila Turner of TPA, notifying her that she was asserting her right to be acknowledged(sic) as the originator and author of the survey and the copyright that come(sic) with that.

#### **CORRECT**

**Dawn Wood “should be strongly advised to “assert her rights” through the offices of her own solicitor, instead of her consistent threats to me. I await the pleasure of her taking such action.**

Dawn has never said that TPA could not use the results or make use of them,

**As Dawn Wood does not hold the copyright to the survey, she cannot give permission or otherwise as to whether or not, or where or not, the results can be used. As there were so many contributors to the development of the survey, it is impossible to name everybody, but, as you will see from the announcement of the publication of the survey on my website [www.tpa-uk.org.uk](http://www.tpa-uk.org.uk) due acknowledgements were included.**

...but wants the due credit and acknowledgement that has come from her efforts in creating the survey.

#### **CORRECT**

**Dawn Wood does want credit and acknowledgement, and again, you will see on our website under “The Inaugural TPA-UK Newsletter” that I did acknowledge the work she has done for TPA-UK. However, Dawn Wood was NOT the creator of the TPA-UK Hypothyroid Patient Survey.**

Although elements of the survey data have been passed about, Dawn has never been sent a copy of the results or allowed access to it.

#### **INCORRECT**

**On completion of the results, the whole of the survey was passed to the Head of Medical Research at Bristol University, which was the original intention. We decided to do this before posting the results on our website. Dawn Wood has never been denied access, and neither has anybody else. Everybody has the opportunity to see the results of the TPA-UK hypothyroid survey on [www.tpa-uk.org.uk](http://www.tpa-uk.org.uk)**

The publishing of the results online, without acknowledgement of Dawn's efforts or even involvement, without having the decency to inform her, and knowing that she was asserting her copyright I consider to be low and underhanded.

**As stated above, there were many people who were involved in the creation of the survey, but I received no complaints from them that they were not individually acknowledged. All members of the TPA-UK forum were kept informed of intentions regarding the survey results. A CD of the survey results was sent to the TPA medical advisers and the Head of Medical Research at Bristol, after which we uploaded the survey results to our website, with a notice advising everybody this had been done and thanking all those who took part.**

Following my advice and consultation with a solicitor(sic), Dawn is asserting the following.

Full ownership and copyright to the survey and the information derived from her copyright.

**Following your “consultation with a solicitor” and as I am founder and owner of TPA-UK, I would appreciate your solicitor contacting me with a request that Dawn Wood be allowed to assert “full ownership and copyright to the survey “. Until such time, the ownership and the copyright of the survey remains with TPA-UK**

Acknowledgement that Dawn authored the survey, creating and devising its development and implementation.

**See above**

The withdrawal of the survey results published online by TPA today, infringing her copyright and right to publish the results of her work.

**See above**

A public apology from Sheila Turner for the infringement of her copyright and the continuous(sic) denial that Dawn was the author of the work.

**See above**

It should be noted that TPA never existed as a legally constituted entity, and as such has no legal right to own property or form contracts

**Poppycock**

Dawn was never employed or paid by TPA or Sheila Turner

**CORRECT**

**As you state “...TPA-UK never existed as a legally constituted entity...” then of course TPA-UK could neither employ or pay Dawn Wood.**

Dawn never signed a contract or agreed to relinquish her copyright to TPA or to Sheila Turner

**CORRECT**

**As Dawn Wood did not own the copyright, she had no copyright to relinquish.**

Dawn asserted her copyright and right to that by publishing the final survey document with her as clear indication as Author.

**CORRECT – IF I UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS.**

**Dawn Wood did not, and does not, own copyright. Employing the services of a solicitor would help both yourself and Dawn Wood to clarify this situation.**

Though Sheila Turner used the award money granted to her to fund the cost of the survey, this was a voluntary action on her behalf and was not a contract of purchase or employment. As such it is considered a gift to TPA.

**Previously you stated that I made a donation, you now agree that I paid the full cost.**

**As I applied to UnLtd Millennium Awards to fund the cost of the survey, and for no other reason, I used the money to fund the survey. It was not a “gift”. I was granted the money to enable me, as owner of TPA-UK to fund any of the campaigns to get a better diagnostic and treatment protocol for sufferers of hypothyroidism within the NHS – whatever that project might be. If Dawn Wood’s solicitor would like to take up the finer details of this point, s/he should contact their office in Leeds, who will no doubt be delighted to let him/her have a copy of the details, including a copy of my accounts. If asked nicely, they may also give you access to my original application for funding of**

**the survey, but if not, I will be very pleased to supply a copy to Dawn Wood's solicitor.**

Dawn is much aggrieved(sic) by the whole issue of the survey and the shabby treatment she has received(sic) from TPA and Sheila Turner.

**As your website is public, I would suggest that, in the interest of fairness and correctness, you detail closely any "shabby treatment" so that people are not given the wrong impression. Especially as the name Sheila Turner is being used publicly.**

Dawn considers(sic) the results of the survey to be important and a valuable contribution to helping those with thyroid conditions, and will freely make available the data to any parties interested in its results.

**Whether or not Dawn Wood considers the results of the survey to be important or not, she does not own or have copyright, and therefore, she is not in a position to freely make available the data to anybody. Again, Dawn Wood should contact her solicitor immediately to clarify this situation**

For those who would like more information and supporting evidence I can supply a collated collection of email correspondence covering this whole period and upholding all of Dawn's claims

**I suggest that if it is Dawn Wood's intention to put this matter in the hands of her solicitor, as frequently threatened by her (and you), that you think twice before letting anyone see any 'evidence' as this could jeopardise your case. I also have all the correspondence regarding the survey from initiation to completion, which was used on the original Yahoo TPA-UK group and private emails. Consult your solicitor.**

**Sheila Turner**  
**Thyroid Patient Advocate**  
[www.tpa-uk.org.uk](http://www.tpa-uk.org.uk)