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[REDACTED]

Mr Gary Allison,  
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21 September 2005

Dear Mr Allison,

**Re: General Medical Council- Professional Conduct Hearing March 1987**

Thank you for the copy of the 1985 version of the Blue Book. I would like you to send this letter with a copy of the blue book to Counsel before we meet for consideration of the first charge against me.

The first charge against me specifically stated that whilst employed as a House Officer at James Paget I had depreciated Jonathan Correa. You may recall that I have already questioned the use of the word "depreciate" with Field Fisher Waterhouse, as being something akin to the purchase of an object which then loses value with time.

I have looked at the Blue Book, which is the one in force when I was charged with this and in particular at the only entry which relates to "depreciation". The section which deals with this is on pages 15 and 16 under section (iv) Advertising, canvassing and related professional offences. There are 3 subheadings under this section (iv), a) Advertising: general considerations and related professional offences; b) Depreciation of other doctors: Canvassing; c) Improper arrangements to extend a doctor's practice.

It does appear that section b relates to senior doctors in private practise coming as it does under section (iv), and by no stretch of the imagination could I as a pre-registration house officer be "depreciating" the SHO and encouraging the patients for whom we had joint responsibility and who were our consultant's patients to leave my SHO and be treated by me instead. The only gain from depreciation is a financial and commercial gain for private doctors and certainly this would not relate to junior doctors in the NHS who have nothing to lose or gain either way. I should never have had to suffer this charge and finding against me for the last 20 years.

Please note that "depreciate" is not the same as "deprecate" and they should be seen in the context of their exact meanings as taken from the Oxford English Dictionary:

1. Depreciate specifically has the meaning, 1. diminish in value (*the car has depreciated*). 2. disparage :belittle (*they are always depreciating his taste*). 3. reduce the purchasing power of (money).
2. Deprecate, 1. express disapproval of or a wish against; deplore (deprecate hasty action). \*Often confused with *depreciate*. 2. plead earnestly against. 3. *archaic* pray against.

It is not open to the GMC or anyone else to use such words loosely and thus disparage me as has happened over so many years. I have explained the difference to Dr Dudley and the fact that the GMC did not have the word deprecate in their rules at the time and therefore never used it against me but used depreciate. This charge formulated as it is should be challenged. The consequences for me have been catastrophic and remain to this day.

I would be grateful if you would pass this onto counsel.

Yours sincerely,



Dr J.E.R. Colman MA, LMSSA, LL.M.

Cc: Dr Dudley, MPS.

Enc: extract from OED