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Mr. Mark Wilson, CEO Cochrane, UK  
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30.10.2018

Dear Mr. Wilson,

We have received a response by Marguerite Koster and Martin Burton to our letter, but this response does not answer our questions at all. We are still or even more disappointed because the response does not contain any facts, but keeps repeating the nebulous intimations regarding Peter Gøtzsche's "behaviour" without presenting any evidence.

This does not go along well with the quite impertinent incrimination of the German Network of Evidence-based Medicine and us as Board members in this response. Ms. Koster and Mr. Burton accuse us of being inaccurate and drawing conclusions on the basis of limited, biased evidence. From our point of view, it is quite evident that the governing board is not presenting any evidence for its accusations but keeps reiterating intransparent and incomprehensible statements which endanger the trustworthiness of Cochrane and damage the reputation of the organisation. Once more, the spirit of Cochrane and its excellent standing require open communication and disclosure of the reasons why Peter Gøtzsche has been expelled from the Cochrane Governing Board, and furthermore why the other board members have not yet resigned to open up the opportunity for new elections and strengthen the democratic basis of Cochrane.

We completely miss the spirit of Cochrane in the handling of this affair. We fear that Cochrane's reputation is at risk of severe damage, not only among the German scientific community but on an international level.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dagmar Lühmann  
*Chair*

Prof. Dr. med. Andreas Sönnichsen  
*Vice-Chair*

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ingrid Mühlhauser  
*Vice-Chair*

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gabriele Meyer  
*Scientific Secretary*