

Prof. Anton J.M. Loonen, MD, PharmD, PhD
Clinical NeuroPsychoPharmacologist

Hogestede 148
4701JJ Roosendaal
Tel. +31 (0)165 329 976
Mob. +31 6 51 51 11 37
E-mail: anton.loonen@wxs.nl

Roosendaal, March 19th, 2018

Cochrane Central Executive
St Albans House
57-59 Haymarket
London
SW1Y 4QX
United Kingdom

Dear Sir, Madam,

Please be informed that this matter concerns Prof. Dr. Peter C. Gøtzsche, the director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre. Mr. Gøtzsche and I acted as experts during a court session at the District Criminal Court of Gelderland (the Netherlands) in 2016. The suspect was a 34-year old woman who was accused of killing her 8 year old son and 6 year old daughter. Mr. Gøtzsche provided an expert opinion on behalf of the defense using reports submitted by me, and I was in turn asked by the court to give my comments to this expert opinion. I was very surprised about the content of his opinion, and also the level of his qualifications to be able to offer an expert opinion in this case; I expressed my serious concerns about both matters. Mr. Gøtzsche's theoretical education and clinical expertise in Psychiatry, Neuropsychopharmacology, and Clinical Pharmacology mean that he is insufficiently qualified to write this report. Mr. Gøtzsche had neither examined the suspect nor had he studied the criminal files himself. His report was exclusively based on a translation of my report and its addendum. It became evident to me later that, as could be expected, this translation showed imperfections. His report contained several incorrect statements and, in addition to these, numerous allegations against the treating physicians and myself.

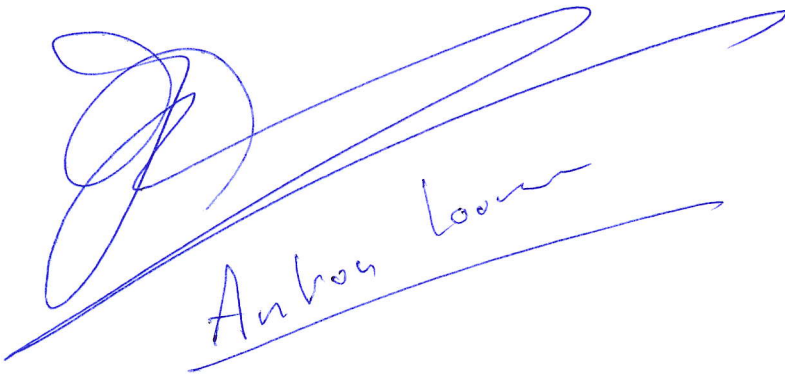
Mr. Gøtzsche's expert opinion was presented on the company stationary of the Nordic Cochrane Centre with your standard motto 'Trusted evidence. Informed decisions. Better health.' It was also signed by him as follows: "Peter C Gøtzsche, Professor, DrMedSci, MSc, Director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre, Rigshospitalet". Apparently, the Nordic Cochrane Centre endorsed Mr. Gøtzsche's findings in that criminal case. This is, however, questionable for me because, to my knowledge, the Cochrane organization is not active in this domain of individual forensic psychiatry, the domain which was entirely the subject of his expressed criticisms. Moreover, the director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre is perhaps financially not entirely independent, since a considerable fee was paid for the report in question, and consequent publicity might promote the selling of Mr Gøtzsche's books (which do – according to your previous statement – not always give the views of the Cochrane Organization). I would like to know: (i) whether the Nordic Cochrane Centre was familiar with the opinion in question, (ii) whether it is correct that the Nordic Cochrane Centre endorsed Mr. Gøtzsche's findings, and (iii) whether this conduct is in line with Cochrane's policy on conflict of interest. Can you please inform me about the Nordic Cochrane Centre's position on these matters?

It is also apparent to me that the defense and/or Mr. Gøtzsche shared my expert opinion with a Dutch newspaper ('De Volkskrant'), despite the fact that the report was confidential. I would also like to know: (i) what the policies of the Cochrane Central Executive in this regard are, (ii) whether the Nordic Cochrane Centre and Central Executive were familiar with this, and (iii) whether they support this kind of sharing of confidential information by one of its directors. Can you please also provide your views in these matters?

In January 2018, two years after the court session, Mr. Gøtzsche filed a complaint against me at the disciplinary court because of my expressions. Together with this complaint, several confidential files were shared. This complaint was filed by Mr. Gøtzsche as director of the Nordic Cochrane Centre (appendix). I would further like to know: (i) whether the Nordic Cochrane Centre and Central Executive were familiar with this complaint and (ii) whether it is correct that the Nordic Cochrane Centre also intended to file this complaint against me.

I look forward to hearing from you. If you need any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by 'rnon Louw'. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

PROCESS POWER OF ATTORNEY

Undersigned:

Prof. dr. P.C. Gøtzsche
Nordic Cochrane Centre
Tagensvej 22
Kopenhagen
Denemarken

declares to give a mandate and power of attorney to dr. D. Bijl, residing at Vredenburgplein 40 in (3511 WH) Utrecht, the Netherlands, to represent him on behalf of the undersigned against prof.dr. A.J.M. Loonen to submit a complaint to the Regional Disciplinary Court for Healthcare at Eindhoven (the Netherlands) and in doing so to represent his matters and interests, to stand up for his rights in respect of this procedure and to exercise this and to represent him in the broadest sense. In particular, the power of attorney relates to the filing of a complaint with the Disciplinary Court, the correspondence with the Disciplinary Court and the performance on behalf of the undersigned at the Disciplinary Court at the hearing.

Drawn up in duplicate and signed at Copenhagen on 23 Jan 2018



P.C. Gøtzsche

Attachment: Copy passport