



The Global Warming Policy Foundation

1 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5DB
020 7930 6856 www.thegwpf.org

Sir Paul Nurse
President
The Royal Society
6-9 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AG

March 19, 2013

Dear Sir Paul

Thank you for your reply of 8 March to my letter of 25 February.

Let me say straight away that I am happy to accept your kind offer to arrange a meeting between the GWPF and a number of climate scientists. As you know, the main focus of this Foundation is to examine global warming policies, rather than global warming science, which is why we are called the Global Warming Policy Foundation, rather than the Global Warming Foundation. But policies and science are obviously closely interconnected, which is why we have a number of distinguished climate scientists (as well as other experts including economists) on our Academic Advisory Council.

While I am writing, however, I must pick you up on three errors in your letter.

First, you advance, as if it were some new and telling point, the fact that the average global temperature in the decade 2000-2009 was higher than in the previous decade 1990-2000, which in turn was higher than in 1980-1989. I had already made clear, in my own letter, that the unpredicted 21st century global temperature standstill followed a period of modest global warming in the last quarter of the 20th century. The decadal point you make follows mathematically from this, and conveys no new information whatever.

Second, you complain that “last year the GWPF published named personal attacks on four successive Presidents of the Royal Society”. I assume you refer to ‘Nullius in Verba’, the report by Andrew Montford which we published last year, with a highly supportive foreword by the eminent climate scientist Professor Richard Lindzen of MIT. So far from personal attacks, this was a reasoned and well-documented critique of the conduct of the Royal Society on this issue under recent Presidents – a critique which, as you will be aware, is shared by a number of your own members.

Director: Dr Benny Peiser

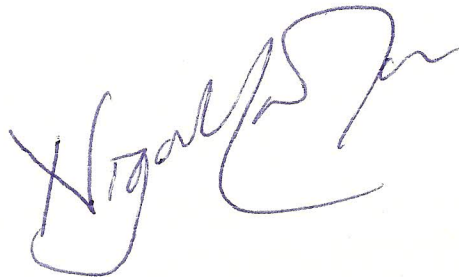
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Third, you somewhat disreputably echo our most malicious opponents in writing that "If you do not reveal who is funding the Foundation then it will be assumed that you are acting primarily as a lobby group". You do not state in whose interest we might be thought to be lobbying, but I assume you have in mind the fossil fuel industry. I have made clear right from the start (and it is published on our website) that we do not accept donations from the energy industry or from anyone with a significant interest in the energy industry. This is monitored by our Board of Trustees, who include, in addition to me, a Bishop of the Church of England, a former Private Secretary to the Queen, and a former Head of the Civil Service. Are you seriously suggesting that we are all engaged in some kind of mendacious conspiracy? I hope that, on reflection, you will withdraw this slur.

Finally, to repeat I am happy to accept your offer to arrange a meeting and look forward to hearing from you about this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Lawson', written in a cursive style.

The Rt Hon Lord Lawson
Chairman