

The Rt Hon Lord Lawson
Chairman
The Global Warming Policy Foundation
1 Carlton House Terrace
LONDON
SW1Y 5DB

From the President Paul Nurse

30 April 2013
Our ref: PN/JB

Dear Lord Lawson

Thank you for your letter of 19 March.

Responding to that letter I append the names of five internationally distinguished climate scientists who are all UK based and Fellows of the Royal Society. I have copied them into this letter so they are aware that you may be contacting them.

- Sir Brian Hoskins, Director, Grantham Institute for Climate Change
- Professor John Mitchell, Principal Research Fellow Met Office
- Professor Tim Palmer, Royal Society Research Professor, University of Oxford. Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics
- Professor John Shepherd, Professorial Research Fellow in Earth System Science, University of Southampton, School of Ocean and Earth Sciences
- Professor Eric Wolff, Science Leader, Chemistry and Past Climate, British Antarctic Survey

As regards the other three points you make in your letter, I will address them in turn.

First, I made no claim that my statement that average global temperature in the decade 2000-2009 was higher than that in the decade from 1990-1999 is anything new. It is of course a widely recognised observation. You may find it useful to discuss this with the climate science experts named above.

Second, I think you are rather overstating the credibility of the Montford document. For example, Montford disparages me for criticising politicians who talk nonsense about science. I list below some of those statements that I criticised:

“Intelligent design is a legitimate scientific theory that should be taught in science class”

President Sir Paul Nurse
Executive Director Dr Julie Maxton

Founded in 1660, the Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the UK, dedicated to promoting excellence in science.

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“don’t believe in a theory that human beings originated from fish that sprouted legs and crawled out of the sea or from monkeys who eventually swung down from the trees”

“that climate problems in Texas are best solved through days of prayer for rain”

What is the GWPF doing publishing something that gives support to such absurd anti-science views? Surely you do not think scientists, or anyone else, should sit idly by when politicians talk nonsense about scientific issues?

Third, regarding the secrecy of your funding, I was highlighting the fact that policy discussions need to be carried out in an open and transparent manner, which includes identifying where your financial support comes from. It was you who mentioned the fossil fuel industry and the fact that some people suggest it is funding you. You might have added that others also speculate that you may be funded by wealthy individuals who have particular political views. The only way to deal with rumours like these is to be open and transparent about the funding of GWPF.

Yours sincerely



Paul Nurse

cc: Sir Brian Hoskins FRS
Professor John Mitchell FRS
Professor Tim Palmer FRS
Professor John Shepherd FRS
Professor Eric Wolff FRS