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**18<sup>th</sup> December 2009 2:00-3:00pm**

**Meeting with Communications team**

Independent Reviewer Sir Muir Russell (MR),

Mr Alan Preece, Director of Marketing and Communications (AP)

Ms Annie Ogden, Head of Communications (AO)

Notes by Lisa Williams (LW)

MR outline of his intentions for a small team.

Has spoken to Mike Granatt of Luther Pendragon (was head of COI) about maximising credibility of the review, and has experience of science in the media.

Not a Chilcott style enquiry.

Difficulties of communicating scientific truth/probability argument to non-scientists.

What is the right way to treat data. How to treat data that changes midway through a series.

Need to involve climate change sceptics – give them an opportunity for input into an objective, calm, considered, focused investigation.

How important is hack/leak question? Now info is out there, there are questions about scientific practice to be answered, no matter how the data was obtained.

Important to know that everything is dealt with – so that the investigation can get to the bottom of this.

AP – ownership/availability of information has been difficult. Getting to core issues.

Major activity, volume/scale of activity huge. Blogosphere element.

Concern about whether more information could be released later.

AO A number of accusations have been sensibly responded to but responses are not always published, particularly on the blogs.

Story

has gathered pace in US. Some correspondents will probably never be persuaded by alternative arguments.

MR – It appears there may be potential threat posed by data which is held at home and therefore not subject to normal back ups.

AP – would like to discuss with MR about the management of review, communication of review outcomes, independence of review, reputation-management of UEA.

AP – provides a written summary of main commentary made on this subject by the media. **Action: MR would like to receive media updates by post to Judicial appointments board (though not open next 10 days).**

**Action: AO will also provide UEA's Q&A sheet on main lines of enquiry – UEA's statements to the allegations made so far.**

Discussion on nature of scientific enquiry – which is dealing with uncertainty and working out probabilities to form a view on the answer.

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Discussion re: difficulties of communicating complex issues of probability and truth to non-scientists.

AO – posed possibility whether further information might be released in the lead-up to Climate Change Bill and whether this might destabilise the process.

AP - concern that the review might be seen as a whitewash.

MR Anything which is not 100% proven – is a difficult matter to deal with.

MR – outlined that he envisaged using his own separate media expert to deal with communications, which was welcomed by AP.

Best way through this is to turn everything inside out.

Any mysteries about data need to be explored, explained.

AP – once scoping over, MR will need to communicate about the review. AP signalled his concerns over a possible interim report as there could be significant issues surrounding this.

MR – agreed this could be problematic but if some area has not been covered then a further area will need to be opened, so an interim report may invite views.

AP – When the report is complete, will the report and recommendations to be made available to VC, Council and will any response to recommendations be framed in advance?

MR – No reason why responses should not be announced at same time as report.

MR – how does this feel to rest of the University?

AP – those in ENV concerned it affects their own standing, SCI concerned about effects on future grant applications. Some feel CRU has been a closed shop that should have put data. Sympathy from other academics.

AO

At VC's recent open forum, surprisingly no increase in numbers and not all the questions were focused upon CRU. LW confirmed there had been a range of questions on other matters.

Discussion on media handling, interviews, Newsnight.

Keith and Phil have not been prevented from doing interviews, but have chosen not to.

MR agreed that he would keep closely in touch with Alan and Annie .

**Action: LW to provide contact details**