

PE1494/A

**WRITTEN EVIDENCE BY DR. THOMAS LEONARD TO THE SCOTTISH
PETITIONS COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF MR. HUNTER WATSON'S PETITION**

27th. November 2013

While I retired some time ago from the Chair of Statistics at the University of Edinburgh, I am still an active fellow of two international statistical societies. According to the information I have collated on my website, I conclude, based on my expertise as a Bayesian statistician, that several hundred thousand Scots are suffering from the potential debilitating side effects of their psychiatric medications, and that there is very little that the psychiatric profession, the NHS, Police Scotland, the Scottish Department of Health, or our esteemed legal profession want to do about it.

I refer to the institutional abuse and degrading treatment of at least half a million Scots, including the children with ADHD who are turned into violent offenders by their ritalin, people with uni-polar depression who are made psychotic by their Seroxat, people who're suffering from psychoses whose health is almost invariably damaged by their atypical anti-psychotic medications, non-violent young men who're paralysed and put on crutches while being jagged with depixol, schizophrenics who experience all sorts of horrifying reactions, including sun scorched skin, to their Largactil, similarly innocuous and non-violent people suffering from bipolar disorder who're koshed with our modern thalidomide, namely the much-vaunted Epilim Chrono (which also causes epileptic women to give birth to children who grow up with horrifying defects), totally sane autistic people who're violently jagged in their bare bottoms with atypical anti-psychotics, and elderly people with dementia, in our nursing homes who're turned over and acuphased with clopixol, or drip fed with some anti-psychotic medication for the convenience of staff even though it his known that these drugs are likely to cause many people to die early or suffer from a stroke, as I suspect that my dear, demented but totally sane, father, who was commissioned on the field at the Battle of Tunis, and fought on the Anzio beachhead and at the Rhine crossing, did in 2001.

About 75% of elderly people in Scottish nursing homes are treated with some psycho-active medication including 33% on anti-psychotics.

According to data provided by the Farr Institute, about 2500 people committed suicide in Scotland between 1981 and 2010 after previously attending a mental care hospital.

Virtually every clinically prescribed, non-herbal psychiatric medication causes damaging side effects, whatever the mental disorder, and most patients will experience some sort of severe side effect in the medium to long term.

According to the much-respected CATIE study, which was reported by Lieberman et al in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2005, 82% of schizophrenic patients receiving quetiapine experience intolerable side effects during the first fifteen months of treatment, and the corresponding percentages for olanzapine, perphenazine, risperidone, and ziprasidone are 64%, 75%, 74%, and 79%.

According to Dr. Stephen Pavis of the Farr Institute, no population statistics have ever been collated in Scotland regarding the incidence of physical side effects of psychiatric medications. Consequently most previous statistical predictions and qualitative projections by our Department of Health and NHS regarding Scottish mental health and well-being have been statistically spurious and quite misleading. I have also discussed these and related issues with Roger Halliday, the Chief Statistician for Scotland, and with Sir Andrew Dilnot, the Chairman of the UK Statistics Authority, who would be able to advise you further.

One of the worst effects of psychiatric medications is slow and tortuous physical and mind death from the frequently misdiagnosed neuroleptic malignant syndrome. I avoided this terrifying fate, and I was indeed one of the lucky ones. After being put into a biochemical straightjacket and later left comatose for several months, I fully recovered my cognition in October 2011, when I refused to keep taking my Epilim. I am now just left with my diabetes, wobbly legs, and a dog-bite-like scar on my wrist which was caused by two surgeries for skin cancer. My consultant psychiatrist lied and threatened me when he coerced me into first taking Epilim in 2001.

I raised many of these issues in my letter of 19th November 2013 to Her Majesty the Queen, and the attachments to this letter. I also advised her that I had recently raised these issues while addressing a meeting of Accountability Scotland in the Scottish Parliament building, a meeting (organized by the UK Statistics Authority) at the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and a meeting of the Edinburgh Section of the Royal Statistical Society.

Her Majesty responded most graciously to my letter. She took careful note of my comments, and instructed that my letter should be sent to the Secretary of State for Scotland, so that he may consider the points I raised with her.

I respectfully call upon the Scottish Parliament, and all good Scots, to do everything it can to protect us from all these evil menaces, in particular by accepting Hunter Watson's well-worded petition, and by ensuring that health administrators and medical practitioners in this area who are involved in harming or abusing their patients are prosecuted according to the full force of the law.

The whole of Scotland has recently grieved for the victims of the helicopter crash in Glasgow, and shown them considerable respect. I hope that we can show similar grief, humanity and respect to the children with ADHD, the people with mental health issues, the autistic people, and the elderly people with dementia who have been the victims of the physical side effects of psychiatric medications.