

As a member of the general public, not affiliated to any organisation, and a taxpayer who is responsible for this panel's funding, I am now deeply concerned about the way this enquiry is now being conducted.

Since Sir Muir Russell's rejection of the accusations of all the evidence of potential bias that was provided last weekend against Professor Geoffrey Boulton, new information has been produced. I am sure you have been made aware of this. It all appears to strengthen the view that not only is Professor Boulton repeatedly on record as a strong supporter of the AGW hypothesis but also is closely linked to other organisations, not least the UEA, who also are either AGW supporters or who have a vested interest in the result of the work the panel is doing. Indeed Professor Boulton is now being quoted as saying that the panel needs informed members like him and that this type of person will have already taken a position on the subject.

This point alone raises serious questions about the credibility of any work the panel is going to carry out

In the interests of ensuring public belief in the panel's independence, is it now not essential that a review of all the panel member's associations is undertaken and those who cannot demonstrate true independence are asked to stand down?

Yours sincerely

John R Smith