

Dear Sir

From the FAQs section of the Review's website:

Do any of the Review team members have a predetermined view on climate change and climate science?

No. Members of the research team come from a variety of scientific backgrounds. They were selected on the basis they have no prejudicial interest in climate change and climate science and for the contribution they can make to the issues the Review is looking at.

Those who have taken a little time to investigate the backgrounds of the Review team members have made the some interesting observations, some of which are appended. The source for these comments can be found at:

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2010/2/11/russell-review-under-way.html>

Could you please explain in the light of these comments how you can possibly conclude that no Review team members have a predetermined view on climate change and climate science?

Regards

David Shepherd

Update on Feb 11, 2010 by [Bishop Hill](#)

Splice in the comments notes that Geoffrey Boulton is an ex-UEA School of Environment man. Dear oh dear.

Geoffrey Boulton on global warming:

We have the evidence, we have a consensus on scientific interpretation, we have the investment, we know (Stern) that mitigation now rather than later is cheaper. But, we have not sorted out the politics and started to adapt behaviour to minimize risks. We cannot do this without public support. If we fail, we will be risking the consequences of catastrophic climate changes.

([Link](#))

Update on Feb 11, 2010 by [Bishop Hill](#)

BP paid to help set up the CRU too, didn't they?

Update on Feb 11, 2010 by [Bishop Hill](#)

In the comments, [this](#) wonderful interview with Philip Campbell, shortly after the Climategate story broke:

INTERVIEWER: I think you must have heard of the Climategate scandal recently. Some renowned global warming proponents showed a conspiracy to produce fraudulent data to support the global warming scenario. How do you see this scandal? Some say that this breaking couldn't come at a worse time because of the upcoming Copenhagen conference. What's your opinion.

CAMPBELL: It's true that it comes at a bad time but it is not true that it is a scandal. The scientists have not hidden the data. If you look at the emails there is one or two bits of language that are jargon used between professionals that suggest something to outsiders that is wrong. In fact the only problem there has been is some official restriction on their ability to

disseminate their data. Otherwise they have behaved as researchers should.

INTERVIEWER: So you think there has been some misunderstanding between the scientists and the outsiders?

CAMPBELL: Absolutely, absolutely.

H/T Mac in the comments.

Interesting to compare this to the FAQ on the Russell Review website

Sir Russell Muir. He advises ScottishPower, a company that profits from the climate change agenda and one that funded distribution of Al Gore's film to schools. It is a vested interest;

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Dr Philip Campbell. Nature is the Climate Science community's house journal and is implicit in the Hockey Stick scandal. (There are 21 references to the comic in his Grace's book);

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David Eyton, head of research and technology at BP. The oil giant has a vested interest in the climate change agenda. See e.g.

www.guardian.co.uk/business/2008/nov/07/bp-renewable-energy-oil-wind

BP... is instead concentrating the bulk of its \$8bn (£5bn) renewables spending programme on the US, where government incentives for clean energy projects can provide a convenient tax shelter for oil and gas revenues. BP is a vested interest.

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Geoffrey Boulton, general secretary of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

A climate-change scientist with a fondness for ad hominem attack and ready purveyor of IPCC-type glacier tosh. See:

www.rse.org.uk/enquiries/climate_change/talks_slides/boulton_slides.pdf

esp the [redacted] on David Bellamy who, in the event, seems by and large to have been correct.

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Professor Jim Norton. He is External Board Member, UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology; Council Member, Parliamentary IT Committee; Commissioner, IPPR Commission on National Security in the 21st Century; Board Member and Trustee, Foundation for Information Policy Research.

He is not directly involved in the Climate Science community but a quick Google shows that he's happy enough to write on its behalf or in collaboration with, e.g. staff from Newcastle University's Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. He's a hanger on at least.

David Eyton, head of research and technology at BP 13 October 2008

In the UK, for example, I represent BP on the Energy Research Partnership, which is a high-level forum bringing together R&D representations from industry, government and academia to ensure that we have a coherent approach to energy innovation.

Another example of the need for this collaborative approach is the formation of the Energy Technologies Institute in the UK, in which BP is a founding member investing almost \$100 million over the next 10 years. This is a public/private partnership that funds demonstration projects to accelerate the development of low-carbon energy technologies in selected areas, such as offshore wind and marine power generation. As a business, BP will of course comply with regulations wherever we operate. Where there are choices as to the form of regulation, we believe the following better enable progress:-

1. Market-based mechanisms. For example, BP is a strong supporter of cap and trade emissions trading, participating in the EU scheme and looking forward to the day when regional schemes are knitted together into a global system.

2. Transitional incentives for alternative energy technologies giving all technologies a fair chance to compete. Incentives should promote efficiency and taper away as the technologies they support become competitive. This isn't about picking winners; it's about bringing the contenders to the starting grid.

<http://www.bp.com/genericarticle.do?categoryId=98&contentId=7048506>

Anyone see any conflict of interest?

I found this pearl from David Eyton:

David Eyton, BP group vice president, Research & Technology, said: "The challenge of climate change requires policy development at all levels: global, national and local. Our work with Princeton is an example of BP's commitment to collaborative research, and has already provided a vital contribution to the pace of policy development. We trust that governments will be successful in reaching a consensus for significant action, and we are working to inform their actions based on our experience of low-carbon technologies and businesses."

February 11, 2010 | [Oslo](#)

Geoffrey Boulton:

"Thirty years ago, scientists who studied climate change, and I am one of them, tended to have long hair and very colourful socks. We were regarded as harmless but irrelevant. But the serendipitous investment in their work revealed processes that we now recognise as threatening the future of human society, and the successors to those scientists are playing a crucial role in assessing how we need to adapt."
