

9<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Dr Joanna Moncrieff  
Critical Psychiatry Network  
Dept of Mental Health Sciences  
University College London  
Room 205, Charles Bell House  
67-73 Riding House Street  
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Dear Dr Moncrieff,

Thank you for your letter of 8.3.11 concerning the place of ECT in training which has been passed to me to answer.

ECT is an established treatment with a good evidence base and is included in the Nice guidelines for the treatment of severe, life-threatening depression and when a rapid response is required, or when other treatments have failed. Nice are very clear about the steps that have to be taken to ensure that service users are properly involved in decisions about having the treatment.

I was not familiar with the Read and Bentall article that you quote as the journal that published it is not one I have ever come across. I have now had a chance to look at it but am unable to agree that this is a robust scientific paper that should change the use of ECT.

The curriculum currently states:

"All Core Psychiatry training programmes must ensure that there is training and supervision in the use of ECT so that trainees become proficient in the prescribing, administration and monitoring of this treatment."

I have no plans to change this.

I am sorry not to have been able to give you the answer you wanted and hope you understand my reasons.

With best wishes,



Dr. Wendy Burn  
Dean, Royal College of Psychiatrists

Our ref: DB/JD ext 6133



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22 March 2011

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Dear Dr Moncrieff,

Thank you for your letter of 08 March.

I must say that I am quite disappointed by your request. I am forwarding your letter to the Dean for a detailed response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Bhugra', with a horizontal line underneath.

Professor Dinesh Bhugra  
MA, MSc, MBBS, FRCP, FRCPsych, MPhil, PhD  
President

Cc: Professor Robert Howard, Dean, Royal College of Psychiatrists