

**Nuffield Department of Population Health
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8 July 2016

Dear Professors Armitage, Baigent and Collins

Thank you for your letter of the 31 May concerning your complaint against the BMJ.

As you know, COPE is a charitable membership organization and not a regulatory authority. In accordance with its charitable objects, it is only able to review complaints where concerns are identified about a journal's process. As explained in our letter of 21 March, we believe that the BMJ did take steps to implement procedural changes to address issues identified through their internal audit. We therefore do not consider this suitable for consideration by our ombudsperson.

We therefore regard this matter as closed as there is nothing further that we can usefully bring to this debate.

Yours sincerely



Chris Graf, co-Vice-chair



Professor Geri Pearson, co-Vice-chair

On behalf of the COPE Trustee Board