

DR. RICHARD TAYLOR MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

6 October, 2006

Standard Covering Letter

**Munchausens Syndrome by Proxy / Fabricated or Induced Illness
Child Protection, Social Services and 'easy-to-misdiagnose' disorders**

You may perhaps be aware that a Cross-Party Group of MPs is calling for the withdrawal of the guidelines on MSBP and FII. The guidelines were originally issued in 2002 by the Department of Health under the title '*Safeguarding Children in Whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced*.'

These same 2002 guidelines are incorporated without amendment at Section 6.6 of the new 2006 DfES initiative, '*Working Together - A Guide to Inter-agency Working*.'

The Cross Party Group's present objective is to ascertain the extent of any problems that may have flowed from implementation of these 2002 guidelines.

I wonder if you might help?

We would be grateful for any information which provides an indication of the prevalence of MSBP-type suspicions put forward each year. For your assistance we include a 'questionnaire' for a free-text response.

We look forward to receiving your evidence.

It would help to have any replies by 6 November, 2006.

*Yours sincerely
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