

Statement from Caudwell Lyme Co Charity regarding Dr Horowitz Q&A for Lyme Disease UK

I should start by introducing myself, I am the CEO of the Caudwell LymeCo charity. The main objective of Caudwell LymeCo is to improve the medical care available to all people with Lyme disease in England and Wales, where the charity is registered. As we explain on our home page, the NHS is the only healthcare option that most people can afford and it is therefore one of our highest priorities to offer support to the NHS.

Dr. Horowitz's allusion in his interview with LDUK seems to have led to speculation regarding the opening of a private Lyme disease clinic in the UK. Dr. Horowitz has not had any discussions with me as Caudwell LymeCo charity's C.E.O. or our trustee committee on this or any other topic. Clearly, a private treatment clinic is a business which would have to charge patients for its services, even if it chose to be a non-profit organisation that only charged them enough to cover its running costs, and this is not something that the charity would undertake to set up as it is at odds with the charity's aim for medical care to be available to everyone free of charge.

Further, the level of funding required to open and run a clinic is dramatically in excess of the funds that the charity currently holds. As you may be aware, Mr. Caudwell generously pays the charity's day to day running costs, but any substantive research or other work that the charity would prospectively facilitate or manage must come from public and corporate donations. To date, the charity has not raised enough money for the trustees to debate funding any project at all.

I am unaware of whether Dr. Horowitz has, or has not, discussed the possibility of a clinic as a business proposal direct with Mr. Caudwell, but if he had then that would be a confidential matter between those two individuals and would not involve the charity.

Veronica Hughes, Caudwell LymeCo C.E.O.