

To: Insert name and organisation here

Dear Insert name here,

In February 2021, the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency warned that the climate emergency was hitting 'worst case scenario' levels, which if left unchecked will lead to the 'collapse of entire ecosystems, cause international famines and the infrastructure that our lifestyles are based on to fail'. This is due to occur within the next 80-100 years.¹

His warnings were based on data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which has warned that higher sea levels will take out most of the world's cities, displace millions and make the rest of our land surface uninhabitable.² It is expected that in the next few decades, extreme weather will kill more people through drought, flooding, wildfires, and heatwaves than war.

The global scientific and financial communities acknowledge that this catastrophe is being driven by the use of fossil fuels and degradation of the natural environment which historically provided a buffer to such activity. There is a clear and unmet need to urgently transition to a low-carbon, circular economy. As health professionals we cannot in good conscience claim to be acting with probity if we are simultaneously funding the very institutions causing climate genocide.

Members of the pharmacy professions will demonstrate increasing sensitivity to the healthcare-fossil fuel association as the geophysical impacts of climate breakdown continue to be seen and felt more sharply. Members would not support unethical investment of membership fees into portfolios holding interests in the arms or tobacco trade, yet the fossil fuel industry will kill and harm many times the number of people affected by both of those industries and will increasingly be viewed with the disdain deserved.

Should you divest from fossil fuels and publicly disclose such an action it would demonstrate health and moral leadership by driving economic decarbonisation, reducing greenhouse warming gas emissions and the associated health inequalities. Well disclosed divestment would offer members influential and inspired role-modelling with regards to climate change mitigation.

From a financial standpoint investment in fossil fuels will become increasingly precarious: It is estimated that up to 60% of market capitalisation for oil, gas and coal companies are at risk of becoming 'stranded assets' in the move to a low-carbon economy. Global financial institutions are increasingly advising against association with fossil fuel industries³. Conversely, it has been demonstrated that divestment (and subsequent 'positive re-investment') can be associated with significant reductions in portfolio carbon-intensity alongside improved financial performance⁴.

There is an urgent need to recognise proactively and openly, then act on the climate/health crisis. If we do not take this step we will fail our members and patients in the most crucial way, by not giving them a chance to protect themselves and their families. If there is any individual who fails to act because they are not fully aware of the dangers ahead, we will be culpable of withholding essential information which may have prevented their suffering.

We ask that the insert organisation name here, as an eminent health institution:

- A. Declare a Climate Emergency
- B. Divest from fossil fuels and other environmentally harmful investments.
- C. Provide/Advocate for leadership and education regarding the climate-health intersection.

¹ Climate emergency impacts hitting "worst case scenario" levels.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/climate-emergency-impacts-hitting-worst-case-scenario>

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

³ United Nations Environment Programme: Portfolio carbon: measuring, disclosing and managing the carbon intensity of investments and investment portfolios

<https://www.unep.org/resources/report/portfolio-carbon-measuring-disclosing-and-managing-carbon-intensity-investments>

⁴ Interview with C. Mercer, Director of Finance and Operations, Royal College of Psychiatrists. 30.03.21

This would bring the **insert organisation name here** into line with the actions of other leading health organisations demonstrating that it is an organisation that understands science and has the bravery to lead on it.

Health Organisation Climate Emergency Declarations	NHS Trust Climate Emergency Declarations
British Medical Association	Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership
Royal College of Physicians	Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Royal College of Psychiatrists	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Health and Care Partnership
Royal College of General Practitioners	University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust
Faculty of Public Health	University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
Royal College of Nursing	Gloucester Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
	North Bristol NHS Trust
	Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (Mental Health and Disability Services)
	Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

We would like to further offer our support and assistance to the **insert organisation name here** in making these positive, essential steps.

Yours Sincerely,

Insert your name here

Insert your name here

Insert signature here

Insert signature here

On behalf of **insert organisation name here**

On behalf of **insert organisation name here**

