

<https://citizensforsafertech.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Ingvar-Tagtstrom-brev-Olle-Johansson-October-13-2004.pdf>

Olle,

This is a letter that I hoped for the longest time that I would not have to write. But alas, Olle, your actions after the working group ceased to exist and the strange rumour mill that apparently has you as a source makes it necessary for me to speak out. Among other things, it concerns your view of the working group that was formed to "Save Olle Johansson's research", how it worked and ultimately why it was discontinued. Now is the time for the truth to come out and for the mists to clear. What is fact and what is fantasy? Well, I can tell you that because I was actually there.

Let me go back to where it all began... One day in April 2003, the big alarm goes off, Olle Johansson's research unit at Karolinska Institutet is to be thrown out! His research results will be dispersed or end up in the garbage. All his research will be made impossible, valuable equipment will be taken care of by others at KI. What remains will be a room of "closet size" where Olle can conduct the business he manages.

Among the support troops you Olle has built up over the years is Eva Ljungberg in Väse. She has supported you for many years, she has written a lot of texts that you have used and she has mainly worked to influence politicians, authorities and organizations to support research efforts on electrosensitivity. It was Eva who, with great energy, began to gather a group of people with the aim of "saving Olle Johansson's research". I was contacted as I had worked with the issue of electrosensitivity for many years for both Sif and TCO Development. As you may recall, we sat together in the expert group that Bruno Hagi at Sif, formed on the issue of the health risks of Information Technology in our work environments.

I knew at an early stage that you were questioned as a researcher by virtually the entire scientific community that worked in the field. But after several conversations with you, where you, with a brilliant verbal ability and with an impressive accumulation of arguments, convinced me that your research was quarantined simply because you possessed knowledge that threatened not only the industry but also other research colleagues. That is why you have been opposed by industry, funding agencies and Karolinska Institutet. Your conclusion was – as long as you get research grants, you

can produce results that will shock the world, I am the answer to the riddle on the track and so on.

### **Establishment and objectives of the working group**

I fell into the trap in the same way as so many others. I therefore took advantage of my contacts at both TCO Development and Sif and, together with Eva, took the initiative to a meeting at your place at KI. As a result of this meeting, on 22 May 2003, a working group was formed with the aim of initiating a proper research effort on electrosensitivity, with skin impact as the primary research area. Our action plan was simple:

- The working group immediately arranges a financial contribution to the rent of the premises, which means that Olle Johansson is not thrown out of his premises at KI.
- Primarily, it was a matter of getting the research you have said you were fighting for for so long. In the long run, however, the working group's aim was to develop a plan for how the research can be conducted seriously, i.e. with a generous budget and in which many different researchers can participate.
- Everyone who has worked with the issue is convinced that it is a multifactorial impact. An interaction between different emissions in areas such as chemistry (airborne particles, etc.) and physics (electromagnetic fields, etc.). That is why it was important to get a national research programme up and running with broad support.
- One of the most important tasks of the working group was to create a pressure group whose task was to influence grant authorities, the Riksdag, the Government, political groupings and appropriate authorities with a well-developed plan. In addition, it was important to create public opinion through the media for intensive research on electrosensitivity and the situation of electrohypersensitive people. The whole process that we set in motion with the formation of this working group is unique in the history of the trade union movement!

### **Sharing**

To enable the continued work in the working group, Olle was given the following tasks:

- To begin with, you were instructed to immediately submit an application to the Cancer and Allergy Foundation. They were fully informed of the work of the working group and thus prepared for this application. We were all aware that it was then up to their experts to decide whether it would be a yes or no.
- Develop a basic application that could be used for different grants. In addition, you would develop a more detailed project plan and a cost estimate. • Together, we work out a pedagogically designed introduction and presentation of the problem of electrosensitivity, as your previous presentations have been too difficult for ordinary decision-makers to understand.
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- Tell the working group which applications you have previously submitted and which, according to your own statement, have not led to any grants. (This was the main argument you have used all along – that you were thwarted by not getting your applications approved).
- Openly report the costs and revenues of the business. What grants you have received in addition to the established state grant funds.
- Finally, the working group demanded full transparency in the accounting of finances and the results of the grants that the working group expected to obtain.

Furthermore, I was given the task of going through the accounting, the work plan and the cost estimate with you. Eva was tasked with convening and drawing up the guidelines for how our "influence campaign" should be designed. For the time being, Sif and TCO Development would wait for Eva's and my work. The only important requirement of the union was that your business should be transparent and be open enough from a financial point of view that the project finances could be monitored.

We agreed on all of this, and even though you were not part of the working group, you were quite clear about what was expected of you. Incidentally, it

was in your interest and for your best interests that we worked to help those who are electrosensitive. The working group, led by Eva and me, tried for a long time to get you to carry out the tasks you have taken on. On four occasions I visited you at Karolinska to emphasize the importance of keeping the promises you made and that you yourself have helped to make. You had promised to submit an account of your department's activities and finances. Each time, the same evasions, the same uncomprehending countenance. On these occasions the same dirge recurred—the miserable conditions under which you worked. That the problem could be solved only Sif and TCO opened their wallets and gave you the millions you needed (without applying). You were, by your own admission, "the only researcher who was on the trail of the truth about electrosensitivity", the only thing you needed was money.

On one occasion I asked a straightforward question. Bruno Hagi, a former employee at Sif, had told me that in addition to grants for research equipment, such as computers and other things, Sif had paid out more than SEK 600,000 to you at one and the same time. Without having received any account from you of what the money had gone. You vehemently denied this information. I haven't received anything from Sif, was your reply. In the evening I called Bruno and was told that you were lying. Bruno had exact details of how much and when you received this money.

The working group had two more meetings, including at my home where you participated. The astonishment became greater and greater when you repeatedly explained that you as a researcher could not actually be controlled, that the tasks you had been given were too onerous and that you were in such poor mental condition that no further demands could be made. Despite this, during the same time you had written other applications and produced lots of articles to market yourself other research together with Örjan Hallberg.

We were all speechless with astonishment! Here we have been involved in saving Olle Johansson's research, we had got the union with all its pressure skills behind us. The rest of us in the working group had put both time, money and commitment into support for you, Olle. In retrospect, you had the best chance in the world to get the attention and research grants you've been nagging about all along – but you missed the chance of a lifetime!

Why? My view is that you suddenly understood that we in the working group were on the way to success. However, this would have meant that your business would have been opened up and screened. You would have to open your accounts and your research efforts would also be subject to re-analysis. This became too much of a threat to you personally and to your business. Your business would not tolerate such transparency!

### **Dissolution of the working group**

At a meeting in Stockholm on 16 January 2004, the members of the Working Group decided unanimously to dissolve the Working Group. The reasons were as follows:

- Despite the fact that almost a year had passed, you, Olle, had not been able to carry out any of the tasks that you had undertaken and that were a prerequisite for the working group to be able to act externally. • You had not in any way accounted for your business's finances. Rather, you had lied about contributions that the task force knew well about. • For example, you did not mention that you have received more than SEK 2 million from the Cancer and Allergy Foundation to your unit since 2001.
- You had already started spreading rumours that the working group wanted to control your research, even though you knew this was untrue. None of us in the working group had made any such comments.
- With a defiance that is only encountered in children in the sandbox, you let the working group know that "you will not write any applications until you have received guarantees that you will also receive money". As a result of the team's contacts with you, we gained a growing understanding of your character traits. So, in addition to the purely factual reasons for dissolving the working group, it lack of confidence in you as a person and as a serious researcher led to the dissolution of the working group. When I called you and announced our decision, I got the impression that you were relieved. I also don't think you took to heart that it was because of your lack of ability to cooperate that the group disbanded. Right or wrong, but you were extremely close to being exposed at this point. This is the true version of how the task force to save your research, was formed, worked, and ultimately disbanded. I have checked the facts with members of the working group and they fully share my description of the course of events.

## **Some personal reflections**

This text consists solely of my own private views. When our mission was interrupted, we naturally experienced great disappointment. Our main purpose was to support those who are electrosensitive. Sif and TCO Development participated in order to create safer workplaces in the long run. It felt strange for those of us who had previously admired your fearless stances in the public debate that has touched on the health risks of information technology's increasingly rapid intrusion into our lives. Now, suddenly, we got to see the power of manipulation and work you put into creating one imaginative Pochemkin backdrop after another. Anything to keep those affected, the electrosensitive ones in the belief that you have the solution to their problems.

As a publishing person, I have spent most of my career working with research reports and with researchers in a number of different areas. I have often been annoyed by the fact that society has previously invested large sums of money in what I consider to be nonsense research. I myself have considered research in the field of work environment to be a high priority area. Hence my great interest in your research.

I have carefully read through your project results and I understand more and more your colleagues who feel that they are not up to scratch. This is also one of the great paradoxes, you yourself say that a lack of funding for more than 6 years has led to you not being able to conduct any research. Yet you are telling God and the whole world that your research is getting closer and closer to solving the issue of electrosensitivity at the same time.

I am firmly of the opinion that your actions have not in any way benefited the electrosensitive. Rather, you have hindered the development of the field! I believe that the doctrine of salvation that you have constantly taught in the lectures and seminars you have given throughout the country has led to false expectations among those affected. It is not unreasonable to say that your actions in the hunt for money under the pretext that it will go to your research – have great similarities with the manipulation capabilities that have been made public by the Knutby case.

When you poach a poor nonprofit like the FEB out of large sums of money under the pretext that salvation is near, you are committing a moral low point that cannot be defended. A number of experts and researchers

participated in the recent lecture series on electrosensitivity, and they basically only asked for cost price for their participation. You distinguished yourself by demanding 20,000 SEK per meeting, which in the end gave 100,000 in your wallet. In addition to this, there is the 226,000 thousand SEK that was collected for your research on electrosensitive people's skin, but which you insisted on getting in your private wallet. It feels hard to see how a young talented scientist somewhere along the way steps over the sacred line that separates a serious researcher from a greedy, I was about to say quack with dubious motivations.

I am writing this letter to you as a fellow human being. You have deceived us all and we all feel cheated. We acted in good faith on behalf of a vulnerable group of electrosensitive, you deliberately took advantage of our goodwill for your own purposes. It took a while before we saw through you and your way of working. The time that has passed since we had contact I thought you would use to clean out your unwashed laundry. Since this did not happen, but instead you started a smear campaign around the working group and its members, then you went a step too far. Hence this letter.

Stockholm, October 13, 2004

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