

You will be aware from the extensive media coverage that late last year there was a cyber-attack on the e-mail system of the Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia. A large number of e-mails were then leaked that were interpreted by some in the media as establishing scientific malpractice and deception at the Unit, which has made its name in doing some of the primary science of climate change. The University believes that there was no significant or deliberate malpractice within the Unit and is extremely anxious that the truth be established.

For this reason an independent lay-led inquiry has been established by the University to look at working practices and data handling within the Unit. In parallel I have been invited jointly by the University and the Royal Society to evaluate the important elements of the published science of the Unit. This work comprises around a dozen papers largely published in major peer-reviewed journals.

It is proposed that a small group of independent scientists who have not had a primary involvement in discussions of climate change, but do have experience relevant to the CRU work, should read the relevant papers and then have the opportunity to see the original data and speak to the scientists who did the work. Although all the group would be welcome to read all the work, it is expected that each member would be asked to pay attention to four or so papers in particular and that each paper would be looked at in detail by at least two members.

It would be hoped to bring the external reviewers together for two days in Norwich with a view to carrying out any study of original material or interviews that they regarded as necessary and for agreeing a report. As you might have guessed, the purpose of this letter is to invite you to participate in this review.

Clearly this is a miserable time for the researchers themselves. It is urgent that the group should get to work as soon as possible. I am proposing that, as soon as the group is established, we should send out the list of papers with requests to review chosen items in detail and try to arrange a couple of days when we may all be in Norwich, ideally within six weeks or so. Our initial proposal is that we gather in Norwich on 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and / or 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

The University of East Anglia will provide all necessary support to the group. It will also arrange accommodation in a good hotel and reimburse business-class travel expenses.