

Date: 9th July 2012

From: David J Balding

To: Jim Wilson and Gianpiero Cavalleri

cc: Mark G Thomas, Mike Weale, Francois Balloux

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Dear Jim and Gianpiero,

to expand on Mark's e-mail a little, we were all shocked at the complete nonsense of Alistair Moffat's item on Today this morning. There's almost nothing true in it: there's no Adam, no Eve, we don't know anything beyond a guess about the Queen of Sheba's DNA or the DNA of the founders of Britain - I think we all know that. I, naturally enough, suspected that this was a shameless duping of the BBC into promoting a fraudulent commercial enterprise that peddles genetic nonsense for profit, and was even more shocked to see your names prominently promoting this business.

What is going on? Do you hope to maintain respectable scientific careers and also lend credibility to such nonsense? Peddling it on the Today program is a serious matter because it discredits honest scientists who are trying to do serious research on human history.

Can you persuade him to make a retraction and to tell the truth? Are you going to disassociate yourselves from this business? Or are you going to claim there is honest scientific research underlying "Britain's DNA"? - I would find the latter difficult to believe given what I heard this morning, but would welcome your views.

I notice that the claim of having to pay something but it is "massively subsidised" corresponds to a £170 fee, which I would guess corresponds to a sizeable profit more than to a massive subsidy.

I hope to hear from you soon

David.