



# Invest in ME

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Minister Nick Hækkerup  
cc: Nils Balle Christensen  
Per Fink  
Jens Gyiring

20 February 2014

## **Karina Hansen**

Dear Minister,

One year ago UK charity Invest in ME contacted your predecessor Astrid Krag and the physicians at Hammel Neurocenter with regard to the case of Karina Hansen, who has been held at this institution since February 2013.

Karina is said to suffer from Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME or ME/CFS) – which is recognised by the World Health Organisation (and, therefore, implicitly accepted by the Danish government) as a neurological disease.

We contacted the former minister to offer our support to the people responsible for Karina's health – by facilitating meetings with world experts on ME who would be gathered in London for the charity's annual research meeting and conference.

We received no reply - neither from the minister, nor from her department, nor from the physicians at Hammel Neurocenter – despite having received confirmation of the emails/contacts having been read. The former minister also failed to respond to the charity's Tweet offering support.

It would seem that Karina's health has not improved since last year – and now this young adult even has little or no contact with her parents.

A year passed from her life – an opportunity lost!  
And we can only wonder at the horror of her current situation.

We are well aware of the deleterious effects of wrong treatment and misinformation about this disease. You may therefore understand that patients and carers around the world are appalled at the lack of information regarding Karina's health and the rumours that some psychiatrists are being brought in from UK to "assist" with the treatment of Karina – something we view as disastrous for the patient and family.

May we again suggest a different way forward – an opportunity that will cost you and your healthcare professionals nothing and may well result in saving a young girl's life?



## *Invest in ME*

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This year in May, in London, Invest in ME again assemble a group of leading experts on ME for our annual CPD-accredited biomedical research conference into ME in London.

Prior to the meeting we will host our international research colloquium.

We wish to repeat again our offer of last year – send one or more of the healthcare professionals currently treating Karina to London. Come yourself.

We will facilitate meetings with ME experts with a view to really help the patient. The events are on 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May.

These conference events will attract many researchers and healthcare professionals from the best universities and healthcare institutions from fifteen different countries. More details are available here – [www.investinme.eu](http://www.investinme.eu)

In London, again, there will be gathered an extraordinary amount of knowledge and expertise regarding ME.

The charity will do what is necessary to allow you to use that expertise by facilitating a meeting, or meetings, with those researchers and clinicians with the objective being to do the best for Karina.

We stated last year that this would not be an easy option for the healthcare professionals involved. With a great deal of international attention on this case it becomes even less desirable for a professional ego to be seen to accept this help now.

However, as with last year, we would give our assurance that any meetings which we arrange to help you and the Danish professionals in treating Karina would be held with complete confidentiality.

Our intention is not make publicity out of this but to help Karina and her family by getting the best experience on ME to be directed to help.

The famous Danish scientist and Nobel prize winner Niels Bohr once said –

“Every great and deep difficulty bears in itself its own solution.  
It forces us to change our thinking in order to find it.”

A change needs to be made.

Yours Sincerely,

Chairman of Invest in ME