

**From:** [Edward Holmes](#)  
**To:** [Legal and Constitutional, Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Legal and Constitutional, Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Correspondence from the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee  
**Date:** Monday, 25 March 2024 2:24:35 PM

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Dear Mervyn,

Here is my response:

The allegation that I was involved in an attempt to portray a false story about the origin of SARS-CoV-2 is demonstrably false and malicious. There is abundant documentary evidence to show that I and my colleagues initially had concerns about a possible laboratory origin of SARS-CoV-2, immediately shared the relevant information with appropriate government agencies, consulted with other experts in field, and eventually dismissed those concerns as unfounded, writing a peer-reviewed scientific paper on the subject. This paper even concludes “More scientific data could swing the balance of evidence to favor one hypothesis over another”.

Like many people globally, I first heard about what became COVID-19 when information on the disease became public on December 31st 2019. I have only very limited academic association with the EcoHealth Alliance and the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

With best wishes,

Eddie Holmes

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**PROFESSOR EDWARD C. HOLMES FAA FRS**  
NHMRC Leadership Fellow & Professor of Virology

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