

November 11th, 2021

Attn: Karla Soares-Weiser, Editor in Chief; Toby Lasserson, Deputy Editor in Chief; Judith Brodie, Chief Executive Officer

Dear Karla, Toby and Judith,

We are reaching out in support of Managing Editors (MEs) across Cochrane.

Cochrane MEs are facing unprecedented pressures and uncertainty during the current period of change, but we remain optimistic about the future.

We want to underline our willingness to engage in ongoing dialogue about the forthcoming changes. Many MEs face likely job loss or significant restructuring related to the *Strategy for Change* and the NIHR funding announcements. Preservation of the ME skillset is critical to upholding Cochrane's output, reputation, and relationships, and there are clear opportunities for MEs to contribute to all phases of review production in a new model. We would like to seek formal direction from the CET about how we can ensure our voices are heard beyond the public consultation opportunities. We are open to conducting a formal exercise to identify concrete solutions where MEs can add value to the new framework and would appreciate guidance on how best to direct this consultation or other ways to inform the changes ahead.

More urgently, we would like a commitment from Cochrane to guide the whole ME community during this transition phase. Specifically, we need direction to prioritize workloads in the face of finite and, in some cases diminishing resources and time, as Cochrane makes the transition to a new model. We are grateful that specific issues raised around the new EMS have been acknowledged and that guidance was provided for UK groups contending with loss of funding. However, we lack clear communication on transition plans for those in other contexts impacted by the central changes — for instance, non-UK groups who may be losing funding, and those with sustainable funding uncertain of their place in a new Cochrane model moving forward.

There is an abundance of opportunity for MEs to support Cochrane through this transition to ensure the success of a new model of review production. We are eager and willing to contribute but need clear direction and commitment around our role in shaping the future model and how to best conduct our business and ensure support for the diverse ME community in the interim. We would be glad to have a conversation about the topics outlined in this letter at your convenience.

Sincerely,

The Managing Editors' Executive
& The Cochrane Council Managing Editor Representatives