

### **The outcome for Sheila**

I did not attempt to appeal (it is now too late anyway) because an examination of the appeal procedure suggests that it is written to protect the institution. It makes the process extremely difficult for any but the most hardened student with plenty of time on their hands. It is designed to put any but the most masochistic student off and I have suffered enough over this. Besides I was far too distressed to repeat the ordeal I had experienced at the hands of academics. .

I have invested 8 years in undertaking this work, and as you know working full time and studying at this level is a major undertaking. I would therefore like to explore other potential avenues if there are any. Needless to say my view of the academic world of which I am myself a part is characterised by acute scepticism.

Would I do a PhD again? Definitely not. In general it was a waste of time and effort. Although I know I have developed academically since commencing the PhD I think this is associated with the work that I do as much as the studying I have done

Numerous hours of my time, my employer's time and fees have been expended on a questionable exercise which was dependent on the whims of academics and institutions who have little accountability to the student and her sponsors.

My PhD experience has left me feeling so angry that I did not want anything more to do with the University of Barchester and that included the acceptance of the offer of an MPhil. I have therefore retained possession of the thesis and it has not been submitted to the University in its bound form, a condition for the official conferment of the award. I have thought about my situation a lot and have a number of thoughts about why things went wrong.