

DAILY EXPRESS

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From the Editor

PH/JHV

17 June 2009

The Rt Hon the Baroness Buscombe
Chairman
Press Complaints Commission
Halton House
20/23 Holborn
LONDON
EC1N 2JD

Dear Peta,

It was very good to meet you last week, when we discussed all aspects of Express Newspapers' relationship with the PCC. I think it might be useful for me to put some points in writing:

As I told the House of Commons Select Committee on the Media recently, I and all the editors in this group have always been fully committed to self-regulation, the Code of Practice and the adjudications of the PCC. That commitment remains as strong as ever, with all it implies. I can assure you that that commitment is shared by the management of the group.

The company's dispute with the NPA, which led to the problem with our financial contribution to the PCC, had nothing to do with the PCC itself and did not mean in any way that either the company or the editors were no longer committed to the PCC. As I explained, the original dispute concerned a levy demanded by the NPA for a newspaper marketing campaign which the board of Express Newspapers thought was unjustified. This culminated in Express Newspapers' divorce from the NPA.

A further difficulty occurred with the actions of your predecessor following the McCann case, which I need not go into again. Let's just say that we must all put it behind us.

/contd

Protracted negotiations have been taking place to find a way in which Express Newspapers can remain a party to the PCC and self-regulation, independent of the question of membership of the NPA. During that time, we have continued to follow the Code and to abide by the PCC's rulings.

I, my fellow editors in the group and also the management sincerely want a resolution to this situation, so that we can go forward as fully committed subscribers to the PCC. I hope my reassurance to you of our commitment will help to achieve that end.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A rectangular box with a thin black border, used to redact the signature of Peter Hill.

Peter Hill

cc Tim Bowdler CBE ✓
Richard Desmond