



The Irish Traveller Movement in Britain
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To Ian Beales Press Complaints Commission

Dear Ian

You will be aware that for some time Gypsy and Traveller and other minority groups have been concerned about the lack of protection afforded by the Press Complaints Commission code of practice to minorities who suffer from unfair and discriminatory reporting.

You may be aware that the Equalities Review Panel recently stated that the Press Complaints Commission should review its complaints mechanisms so as to consider complaints about coverage on the basis of discrimination or prejudice against, or stereotyping of, groups as well as individuals; and, if so, they will offer the Commission technical help in drafting the necessary amendments to their code.

This issue was raised in the House of Lords by Lord Avebury on the 26/3/2007 and in reply Lord Davies of Oldham stated that the Government support self-regulation for the press and that the content of the editors code of practice was therefore a matter for the Press Standards Board of Finance's code committee. However, Lord Davies stated that should the Press Complaints Commission request help in drafting any amendment, the Government would be happy to provide it.

We gather from Lord Avebury that the Press Standards Board of Finance's code committee have recently decided not to endorse any amendment but have stated that they are continually open to suggestion.

The Irish Traveller Movement therefore requests that the Press Standards Board of Finance's code committee reviews their complaints mechanisms so as to consider complaints about coverage on the basis of discrimination or prejudice against, or stereotyping of, groups as well as individuals.

Yours Sincerely,

Yvonne Macnamara
ITM Director

Andrew Ryder
ITM National Policy Officer

