

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

From the Chairman

Jim Raeburn Esq
Director
Scottish Newspaper Society
21 Landsdowne Crescent
Edinburgh EH12 5EH

31st March 2010

Dear Jim,

I am writing to you following the recent publication of the report into press standards, privacy and libel by CMS Select Committee. The PCC has now published its response to this report, which I enclose for information.

As you may know, the report contains the following recommendation about journalists' contracts of employment: "the PCC should mandate the inclusion of a clause requiring respect for the Code in staff contracts of journalists of all subscribing publications".

In our response, we have made clear that we will be writing to the industry to encourage "universal take-up" of this practice. The Commission believes that contractual references to the Code strengthen the system of self-regulation and the effectiveness of the PCC's rulings. The Commission would like such references to be uniform across the industry.

On that basis, I would be very grateful if you could clarify with your members their policy on contractual references to the Code and make that information available to the Commission. We would then seek your assistance in securing commitments from the relevant companies to include such references in future.

As you know, the continued success of the Press Complaints Commission is very much in the interests of the industry as a whole. Your assistance in helping to strengthen it further would be most welcome.

Do please give me a call, if you would like to discuss this.

With kind regards.

Perd

Baroness Buscombe

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