PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

From the Director

Anne Spackman Editor-in-Chief Times Online 1 Pennington Street London E98 1TT

15<sup>th</sup> August 2006

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The PCC and the Editors' Code of Practice Committee is about to embark on a series of meetings with online editors to consult on the content of new guidance about how to deal with complaints about newspaper and magazine websites, with particular regard to audio-visual content.

This follows confirmation by the Press Standards Board of Finance – the committee of industry owners and managers which funds the system of self-regulation – that the Code of Practice does in principle include audio-visual journalistic material. There has been a reference in the Code for a number of years to 'online versions of publications', but the online services now offered are so diverse that it is in any case a good opportunity to think in depth about the application of the Code to publishers' internet operations.

Of course, much content - advertising, competitions, promotions, most usergenerated material, third party websites and so on - is excluded from the PCC's jurisdiction. Our interest is in journalistic material where an editorial decision has been taken at some point about its commission or use.

With audio-visual material particularly, but not exclusively, in mind, we will be consulting among other things on how future complaints might be resolved, how the sanction of a critical adjudication might apply, the notion of 'due prominence' in correcting accuracy complaints about AV material, and the scope of the PCC's jurisdiction.



Halton House, 20/23 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD T: 020 7831 0022 F: 020 7831 0025 E: complaints@pcc.org.uk Textphone for deaf or hard of hearing: 020 7831 0123 www.pcc.ord.uk CHAIRMAN Sir Christopher Meyer

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Colleen Harris MVO, FRSA Vivien Hepworth Peter Hill Ian Beales – the Secretary of the Code Committee – and I will be hosting a series of small meetings here at the PCC on the  $28^{th}$  and  $29^{th}$  September. My PA Kim Baxter will be in touch soon to try to find a convenient time for you, and I will write again next month with a more detailed agenda. The aim is to publish new guidance – which will need to be approved by the boards of PressBoF, the Commission and the Code Committee – sometime in the autumn.

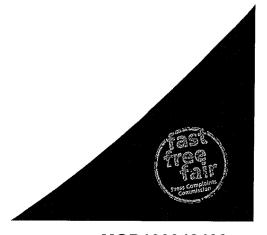
I look forward to seeing you next month.

With kind regards.

Your Finaly []] `

Tim Toulmin

cc. Ian Beales Esq, Secretary, Editors' Code of Practice Committee.



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