

From: Stephen Abell [<mailto:stig.abell@pcc.org.uk>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 9:30 AM
To: Acton Edward Prof (VCO)
Subject: PCC

Dear Professor Acton

Thank you for your letter of 23rd April.

The PCC would be happy to do whatever it can to consider complaints about inaccurate reporting on this issue. I understand that you wish to await the outcome of the Russell review before asking us formally to do so.

In examining this matter, the PCC would consider whether - at the time of publication - editors had taken care not to publish inaccurate or misleading information. If information subsequently comes to light (for example in the review) that demonstrates earlier coverage was inaccurate, then the Commission would generally expect editors to put it right promptly and proportionately.

You may wish to consider, on the publication of the Russell review, approaching editors directly with your concerns, setting down how the reporting has been inaccurate. They may then use the information in the review to put things right. Any failure to do so could lead to you simply making a complaint to us. We would be happy to consider complaints without such prior contact, but allowing the opportunity for the record to be set straight may be a more practicable step initially.

In the meantime, we would welcome any information about the articles to which you have the most clear objections. We can then prepare to consider them when the time comes. It may also be helpful for us to have a discussion about what you are seeking in making complaints, and to talk through the PCC process.

I am happy to speak whenever convenient; my mobile number is 07980 264359. The person who would handle the complaints here is Scott Langham (02074381248; scott.langham@pcc.org.uk). He is the head of complaints, and would give his full attention to this issue.

Very best

Stephen

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