

Annex A

Timeline of Events 2002-8 (with Exhibits) involving Richard Thomas (Information Commissioner 2002-9) and the ICO

Exhibit RJT 1 and 1A - What Price Privacy? and press release of 12 May 2006.

Exhibit RJT 2 and 2A - What Price Privacy Now? and press release of 13 December 2006.

2002

ICO distributes "Blaggers Beware!" Video to warn data controllers of risks.

2003

November 4 – Letter to Sir Christopher Meyer, Chairman of PCC to alert him to evidence and forthcoming prosecutions [**Exhibit RJT 3**]

November 14 – Briefed Lord Filkin, DCA minister. [**Exhibit RJT 4**]

November 27 - With Phil Jones, met Sir Christopher Meyer and Guy Black at PCC. My speaking note is **Exhibit RJT 5** and my e-mail report-back is **Exhibit RJT 6**.

December 2 - With Phil Jones, 2nd meeting with Sir Christopher Meyer and Guy Black at PCC.

2004

December 8 – Letter to Sir Christopher Meyer [**Exhibit RJT 7**]

December 15 – Reply from Sir Christopher Meyer [**Exhibit RJT 8**]

2005

January 18 – Conference with Counsel to discuss forthcoming trial.

April 15 – Sentencing of Whittamore and others at Blackfriars Crown Court

May 27 - Conference with Counsel to discuss outcome of trial.

September 15 – Internal Motorman meeting

October 6 – With Mick Gorrill & Phil Taylor, met CEO of Asset Recovery Agency to urge “Proceeds of Crime” action against Whittamore.

October 17 - Internal meeting to discuss Motorman Report

2006

January 19 – Met Ken Macdonald, Director of Public Prosecutions, to share information about the nature and extent of illegal market and seek support for prison sentences.

May 10 – about 100 tailored and personally-signed letters sent to all key players with advance copies of What Price Privacy?. **Exhibit RJT 9** includes examples.

May 11 – Addressed annual meeting of Finance & Leasing Association about WPP issues.

May 11 – E-mail to all ICO staff to alert them to publication and warn of possible negative press coverage. [**Exhibit RJT 10**]

May 12 – Press Release issued, with case studies and supportive quotes from victims - Exhibit RJT 1.

May 12 - What Price Privacy Now? published - **Exhibit RJT 1**.

May 12 – WPP coverage on BBC website. [**Exhibit RJT 11**]

May 31 – Letter from Sir Christopher Meyer, enclosing a copy of his speech of May 25 questioning what more could be done by way of self-regulation. [**Exhibit RJT 12**]

June 15 – Meeting at OFT

July 13 – Meeting at Press Complaints Commission. ICO meeting note is **Exhibit RJT 13**.

July 13 – Dinner with Murdoch MacLennan (Telegraph / NPA), John Whittingdale MP, Sir Michael Peat (then Head of the Prince of Wales’s Household) and others.

July 19 – Letter to Code of Practice Committee of Editors. [**Exhibit RJT 14**]

July 24 – Meeting Lord Falconer.

July 24 – Letter from Lord Falconer with Consultation Document. [**Exhibit RJT 15**]

August 31 – Letter from Code of Practice Committee of Editors - [**Exhibit RJT 16**]

September 12 – Letter from Sir Christopher Meyer, with response to WPP - [**Exhibit RJT 17**].

September 18 - internal meeting to discuss follow-up Report.

September 21 – Meeting with Ian Beales, Editors Code of Practice Committee. E-mail report-back is **Exhibit RJT 18**

October 9 – Letter to Lord Falconer, with ICO response to DCA consultation. [**Exhibit RJT 19**]

October 29 – letter from National Union of Journalists, supporting tougher sentences and a curb on the “dark arts” - [**Exhibit RJT 20**]

October 27 – Meeting at News International with Les Hinton and others. **Exhibit RJT 21** is the ICO meeting note and my handwritten note is **Exhibit RJT 22**.

October 29 – Sunday Times editorial, Times article of November 1 and my responses. [**Exhibit RJT 23**]

October 31 - Internal meeting to discuss follow-up Report

November 1 – Letter from Periodical Publishers Association with cross-industry response to WPP and DCA paper. [**Exhibit RJT 24**]

November 17 – Letter from Les Hinton. [**Exhibit RJT 25**]

November – HMRC data loss announced.

November 29 – Reply to Les Hinton. [**Exhibit RJT 26**]

December 13 - What Price Privacy Now? (“WPPN”) Published with Press Release - [**Exhibit RJT 2**]

December 14 – Letter from Sunday Times - objecting to some of the content of WPPN - [**Exhibit RJT 27**]

2007

January 4 - meeting with Murdoch MacLennan and Guy Black (Telegraph / NPA) - E-mail report-back is **Exhibit RJT 28**.

January 25 – Meeting with Media Standards Trust.

January 26 – Spoke at Reuters Institute “Investigation vs. Intrusion” Seminar in Oxford, setting out in some detail how Public Interest considerations protect legitimate investigative journalism.

February 2 - .Reply to Sunday Times, rejecting criticisms, but correcting (with unqualified apology) an error in WPPN which over-stated the number of cases for the Sunday Times and under-stated the number of cases for the News of the World. [**Exhibit RJT 29**]

March 6 – Oral evidence to Culture, Media & Sport Select Committee

February 8 - Parliamentary Statement announcing intention to legislate.
[**Exhibit RJT 30**]

March 27 - Letter from Ian Beales, Editors Code of Practice Committee about possible changes to Code. [**Exhibit RJT 31**]

April 16 – Reply to Ian Beales, Editors Code of Practice Committee. [**Exhibit RJT 32**]

April 25 – Meeting with NPA and Society of Editors attended by Phil Jones and Lee Taylor – ICO meeting note is **Exhibit RJT 33**.

May 30 – Internal e-mail with final draft of ICO Good Practice Note on Section 55 for Journalists – [**Exhibit RJT 34**].

June 14 – Speech on “Lawyers, Investigators, Privacy and the Law” at KPMG Forensics. [**Exhibit RJT 35A**].

June 28 – Speech to Association of European Journalists.

July 11 – CMS Report on Self-Regulation of the Press published.

July 26 – Speech at Publishers Lunch organised by Harbottle & Lewis .

July 27 – Speech at lawyers meeting organised by Davenport & Lyons.

October 8 - 2nd Reading of Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill in Commons

October 25 – Prime Minister’s speech on “Liberty” mentions the need to protect both personal data protection and freedom of the press.

November 5 – Major speech on press misconduct at Society of Editors Annual Conference in Manchester.

November 27 – Committee stage of Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill discussed Clause 75 and objections raised by media. No vote.

December 4 - Oral evidence to Justice Select Committee.

2008

January 18 – Attended meeting called by Maria Eagle MP, MoJ Minister, where media representatives put case against (what is now) Clause 29.

January 24 – Attended lunch hosted by Sir Christopher Meyer and Tim Toulmin (PCC).

January 24 – Internal e-mail with final draft of ICO Statement of Prosecution Policy in relation to Journalism [Not in fact issued]. [**Exhibit RJT 36**]

February 11 – Phone call from Jack Straw to warn of likely withdrawal of clause 129.

February 20 – Spoke at Wednesday meeting of all Permanent Secretaries.

February 21 – meeting with Jack Straw and Maria Eagle (in Commons).

February 22 – Draft of 3rd Report to Parliament (not published). [**Exhibit RJT 37**]

February 24 – Internal e-mail – reporting that withdrawal of clause now seemed unlikely, but setting out tactics. [**Exhibit RJT 38**] .

March 3 – Phone call from Jack Straw - proposing to withdraw Clause 129.

March 4 – Letter to Jack Straw objecting to proposed withdrawal of clause 129 and indicating that I would need to lay a 3rd report before Parliament. [**Exhibit RJT 39**]

March 5 – Meeting with Gordon Brown and Sir Gus O'Donnell – E-mail report-back is **Exhibit RJT 40**.

March 7 – Letter to Prime Minister. [**Exhibit RJT 41**]

March 11 – 1st meeting with Sir Suma Chakrabarti, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice.

March 25 – 2nd meeting with Sir Suma Chakrabarti. - E-mail report-back is **Exhibit RJT 42**, which includes letter sent to selected Parliamentarians.

April 1 - ICO press release: "Don't water down penalties for Bloggers". [**Exhibit RJT 43**]

April 3 - 3rd meeting with Sir Suma Chakrabarti.

April 3 – Government amendment to Clause 129 tabled.

April 23 – Lords Report stage. Compromise amendment accepted.

May 8 - Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 receives Royal Assent.
Clause is now Section 77.

June 4 – Meeting with Paul Dacre at Daily Mail to discuss Associated Press efforts to clean up.

July 25 and August 5 – Letter from Paul Dacre and reply [**Exhibits RJT 44 and RJT 45**].

November 9 - Paul Dacre speech at Society of Editors annual conference (Bristol) [**Exhibit 46**].

November 10 - RJT addressed Society of Editors annual conference about press misconduct (Bristol),