

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Our reference: 106057

5 January 2011

Noel Doran Esq
Editor
The Irish News
113-117 Donegall Street
Belfast
BT1 2GE

Dear Mr Doran

The Commission has received a complaint from Mr Pedro Delgado about an article dated 17 December in The Irish News headlined "The NHS boss who travelled the world at your expense".

Before the Commission assesses whether the complaint raises any possible breach of the Code, we should be grateful to have your comments, which will be sent to the complainant.

As we have made clear to the complainant, the system of self regulation overseen by the PCC requires good faith on both sides. In order for the PCC to be able to investigate complaints effectively, it is essential that neither party to a complaint, complainant or newspaper/magazine, publishes information which has been provided as part of the investigation - most notably correspondence - without the consent of the other party. Publication, without consent, may affect the PCC's ability to continue to deal with a complaint or may be considered by the PCC when it reaches a decision as to whether the Code has been breached. Material provided by both complainants and publications during a PCC investigation must only be used for the purpose of the complaint being considered by the PCC.

In addition, the Commission has a commitment to deal with all complaints as speedily as possible. It expects both complainants and newspapers/magazines - and their representatives, legal or otherwise - to cooperate with that commitment. Any unreasonable delay on either side may be taken into account by the Commission.

It would, therefore, be most helpful if you would reply within the next seven days.

I am grateful to you for your co-operation.

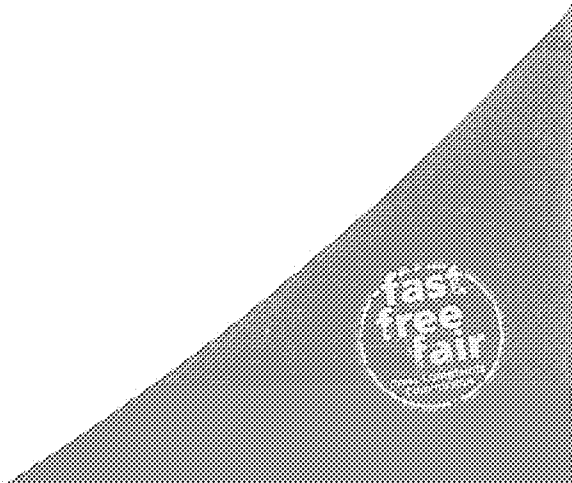
Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature box]

Rebecca Hales
rebecca.hales@pcc.org.uk

Enc: correspondence

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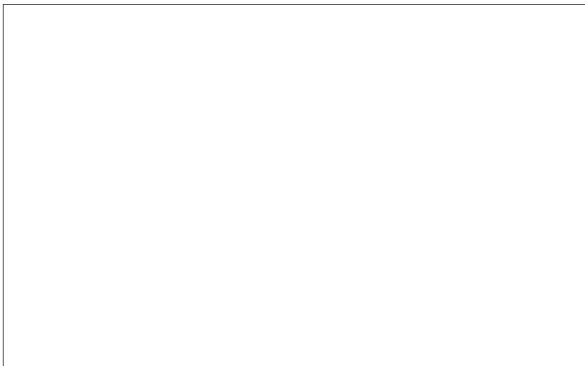


Simon Yip

From:
Sent: 22 December 2010 15:51
To: complaints
Subject: Online Complaint
Attachments: data.csv; ATT49136.txt
Todays date : 22/12/2010

Title : Mr

Complainant Name : Pedro Delgado



Publication : The Irish News

Publication Date : 17/12/2010

Headline : NHS Boss who travelled the world at your expense

Both : Yes

Explanation : Please explain how you believe the Code of Practice has been breached

1. The headline is misleading: 'NHS Boss who travelled the world at your expense' implies that I authorised travel for myself, and that all money used came from taxpayers' contributions. Both of these are inaccurate: every trip made was authorised by the proper channels within the organisation and signed off by a superior (the Forum's Chair or the Forum's Director); an important proportion (over 50%) of the funds that were used for these trips came from a generous donation by a charitable Foundation. Other inaccuracies include implying that I live in the US, as I live in Northern Ireland with my wife and two daughters; and course fees for events or trips for which fees were not paid, or where amounts were exaggerated.

2. The front page photograph is misleading: this photograph was taken from my Facebook profile, which is the only place where it was published outside my digital camera. Its a photograph of me and my daughter during a recent holiday trip. They cut my daughter off, but placed a half page picture of me shirtless on their front page. This is misleading, as when read next to the headline implies that somehow the 'trips' (work related) were used to go to the beach. In addition, I would like to know how many times, in the history of this newspaper, they have published a half page size, front page photograph of a shirtless individual related to a work matter? This is both out of context and sensationalist.

3. Privacy: in addition to the above, on page 7, they published a column titled 'who is Pedro Delgado?' which describes my CV, including my sporting achievements. I would like to know how that is relevant to the story, or why they have the right to publish this amount of details

22/12/2010

about me.

I have not contacted the newspaper. The extent of their coverage was excessive and a personal attack. I would not like this matter to drag on for months; however, I would like a fair resolution and a public apology if you determine this is relevant.

Clauses : Please add the clause(s) you believe to have been breached

Accuracy, Privacy; potentially, Harrassment, Discrimination.

Hard copy : No

Online : No

Readers Comments : No

Audio Visual Material : No

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