

**Press Complaints Commission**

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*Director*

Tim Toulmin

*From the Director*

Les Hinton Esq  
Executive Chairman  
News International  
1 Virginia Street  
London E98 1XY

28<sup>th</sup> April 2005

*Dear Les,*

[redacted] from has sent me the attached letter that the editor of the Daily Record has received from Mediawise.

I am alarmed to see that it claims that the Home Office has commissioned the charity to research the effectiveness of the Guidance Note that we produced into the reporting of asylum seekers and refugees in October 2003.

I feel very uneasy that the government is sponsoring such research. It rather begs the question as to what it will do if the research concludes that the initiative has not been a success – which is a probability, given who is carrying it out. But in any case, is it really the government's business to be monitoring the effect of our guidance notes in this way?

I would be interested to know how extensively this letter has been circulated, what the response of editors so far has been, and whether anyone has yet taken this up with the Home Office.

I am sending a copy of this letter to [redacted]

and [redacted]

With kind regards.

*Tim Toulmin*

Tim Toulmin

Enc.

