

27/04 2005 16:55 FAX 0141 309 3645

MALCOLM SPEED

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SCOTTISH DAILY
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TO Mr Tim Toulmin
AT Press Complaints Commission
FAX NO 020 7353 8485
FROM Malcolm Speed
PAGE 1 OF 3
DATE 27th April 2005

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Dear Tim

Please see attached as discussed.

Regards

MALCOLM SPEED
Managing Editor

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incorporating
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- advice, information, research & training on media ethics -

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26 April 2005

Mr Bruce Waddell
Editor
Daily Record
Anderston Quay
Glasgow
G3 8DA

→ M. SPEED

Dear Mr Waddell

The Home Office has commissioned MediaWise and the Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees (ICAR) to examine the effectiveness of the Guidance Note about reporting on asylum seekers and refugees, issued by the Press Complaints Commission on 23 October 2003.

MediaWise (www.mediawise.org.uk) is a charity run by journalists to promote media ethics. It supports press freedom, responsible journalism and is committed to the promotion of accurate and fair reporting. Since 1993, MediaWise has conducted research into a wide range of issues including children and the media, health reporting, and reporting suicide. It has devised and delivered training programmes for journalists and non-governmental organisations in over 25 countries, working with the International Federation of Journalists, UNICEF and WHO, among others.

ICAR (www.icar.org.uk) exists to raise the level of public debate about, and increase understanding of, UK refugee and asylum issues. It collects, records, collates and disseminates accurate and comprehensive information to the public and those who need it for their work. ICAR is based at the School of Social Science and Public Policy at King's College, London.

The research is designed to monitor and investigate the impact and adequacy of the PCC Guidance Note by comparing national post-guideline coverage of UK asylum and refugee issues to national pre-guidance coverage. It will investigate a sample of stories that appear to breach the guidance or which contain reporting that may give cause for concern but that are not catered for adequately by the guidance.

It will also provide the first-ever systematic analysis of regional press coverage of UK refugee and asylum issues. We are also interested in gathering examples of good practice in reporting these issues – that is, accurate and balanced coverage which demonstrates responsible, community-sensitive journalism and promotes information-based debate.

The research will be made available to organisations and individuals with a role in promoting fair and accurate reporting about this group, including the National Refugee Integration Forum and the PCC.

Gathering editors' views of the Guidance, and how they approach stories about refugees and asylum seekers, is a crucial part of the work. So I'd be very grateful if you are able to agree to do a telephone interview with one of my researchers for half an hour sometime during the week beginning May 16.

Continued.../

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Please email (rich.cookson@talk21.com) or call me (0117 9466107 or 07736 069794) to let me know whether you can take part, and to agree a date and time.

Quotations from the interview will be used in our final report, though they will not be attributed to identifiable individuals. For the sake of accuracy, we would like to tape-record the conversation.

Yours sincerely



Rich Cookson
MediaWise