For Distribution to CPs

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

From the Chairman

Our reference: 082150

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23 December 2008

Jean Pant,

I write further to the letter of 15th December from Stephen Abell, in which he enclosed the Commission's decision on the complaint from

I enclose another copy of that decision for your information.

As you will see, the Commission expressed concern at the manner in which you cooperated with the PCC investigation. I share that concern. While I understand the reluctance to disclose material at a point when legal action has not been ruled out, I must emphasise that this cannot be a reason for failing to provide substantiating evidence to the PCC in defence of a complaint under Clause 1 (Accuracy) of the Code.

It was only because of your eventual decision to offer to run a correction that the complaint was not upheld against you. The Commission was disappointed at the time taken for you to respond to its offices in the resolution of this complaint.

I would be grateful if you could take on board this point for future.

With kind regards.

CHAIRMAN

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