



PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

From the Chairman

Sir Robert Smith Bt, MP
House of Commons
London
SW1 0AA

14th April 2010

Dear Sir Robert,

Thank you for your letter of 9th April.

The PCC has now issued its response to the SMS Select Committee. I attach a copy for your information.

When I joined the PCC last year, I instituted an independent Governance Review into our structures and processes. This is yet to report, and so you will understand that I am constrained from offering a view at this stage about any structural change to the PCC.

What I will say is that the Commission is certainly committed to maintaining – and improving – standards by overseeing an effective complaints mechanism that holds editors to account. Last year, we issued over 1600 rulings, and negotiated settlements in over 600 cases. But we also, of course, go further than merely considering complaints: we train journalists and editors; give pre-publication advice to prevent intrusive or inaccurate stories appearing; act to prevent harassment by the media (including broadcasters); and proactively approach those at the centre of news stories to offer our help. So the issue of standards is already at the heart of what we do.

I am grateful to you for taking the trouble to write. If you want to discuss issues relating to the PCC further, do give me a call.

With kind regards.

Reid Buscombe

Baroness Buscombe

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