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Tuesday 7th September 2010

Dear Peta,

I hope you're well. I am writing as Chairman of the Media Standards Trust with a request.

In your letter introducing this year's Press Complaints Commission annual report you admirably committed the Commission to abide by the spirit of the Freedom of Information Act. In that spirit we would ask that you make available, within the standard FOI timeframe, the correspondence between the Press Complaints Commission and the *News of the World* since the start of the PCC's second investigation into phone hacking in 2009, which you and I talked about in December last year.

In January you urged us 'to reserve judgement until clear facts emerge' which we were - and are - happy to do. But since then a great deal more about this issue has emerged and we believe it is now imperative to arrive at a definitive view of what may, or may not, have happened.

Our 'Freedom of Information' request includes:

- Correspondence (letter and email) between News International employees (including those at News Group Newspapers and the *News of the World*) and the PCC related to allegations of phone hacking, and any evidence given to the PCC by News International (including News Group Newspapers and the *News of the World*) related to allegations of phone hacking, from July 2009 to September 2009
- Correspondence (letter and email) between News International employees (including those at News Group Newspapers and the *News of the World*) and the PCC related to allegations of phone hacking and regarding the new case of phone hacking discovered in 2010, from April 2010 to September 2010

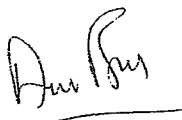
The allegations in the *New York Times* and *The Guardian* suggest there may have been a culture of systematic invasion of privacy and law breaking in one of the most powerful newspapers in Britain, which is in turn owned by probably the most powerful commercial media organisation in the country. If, as the *News of the World* claims, these new allegations have no basis then it is in their interest that the exchange between you and they should be in the public domain. We believe that it is of great importance for the future of responsible journalism and press freedom, of which you and the PCC are a great protector; that as much light as possible is shed on the events that are alleged to have taken place so that the air can be cleared in public once and for all. I am sure you must feel exactly the same.

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This is why we last week supported calls for a judicial inquiry and why, quite separate from this request, we shall also be working to open up the files held by the police that may contain the evidence of alleged phone hacking - again to clear the air.

I am very grateful to you for your help in this. I will, also in the spirit of transparency, be making our 'Freedom of Information' request public.

With best wishes,



Sir David Bell  
Chairman, Media Standards Trust