



5/7 Vernon Yard
Portobello Road
London
W11 2DX

0207 227 5229
firstname.lastname@mediastandardstrust.org
www.mediastandardstrust.org

Friday 4th February

Dear Baroness Buscombe,

On Monday 29th November 2010 the Media Standards Trust wrote an open letter to the Press Board of Finance asking about the details of a libel settlement between yourself (as Chair), the Commission, and the solicitor Mark Lewis.

We have not yet received a response. But it was reported in the press that:

'The Press Complaints Commission, which oversees the newspaper industry's editorial code, yesterday found itself in the embarrassing position of formally apologising and paying damages for misleading remarks made by its chair, Lady Buscombe' (The Guardian, 26-11-10)

Your comments to Radio 4's The Media Show this week appear to contradict this, and other, reports.

In response to Steve Hewlett's questions about the case you indicated that you and the PCC had not paid damages, had not apologised, and had not conceded that you were wrong in your comments about Mark Lewis at the Society of Editors 2009 (see transcript enclosed).

The outcome of this important case is now, therefore, very unclear.

To clarify things we would be grateful if you could answer three questions:

1. Did you and/or the PCC agree to pay damages to Mark Lewis to settle his libel suit against each of you?
2. If so, how much were the damages?
3. Did you concede that the comments you made about Lewis at the Society of Editors conference 2009 were misleading?

As before, in the interests of transparency we will be making this letter public after sending it.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Martin Moore'.

Martin Moore, Director, Media Standards Trust

Company limited by guarantee
Registered in England and Wales 05514310
Registered Charity 11136401

MOD100039678