



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

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Sir Christopher Meyer
Chairman
Press Complaints Commission
1 Salisbury Square
London EC4Y 8JB

2 December 2005

Dear Sir Christopher,

I have received your letter of 23 November 2005, in reply to my earlier letter.

In my letter to you of 18 November 2005 I asked you 'How can I, or others criticised in your book, come to the PCC in future and expect impartiality?'. You replied that you 'do not believe that the contents of my book prevent me from acting as chairman of the PCC'.

The PCC's 'Articles of Association' clearly state that:

'the Chairman shall not be engaged in or, otherwise than by his office as Chairman, connected with or interested in the business of publishing newspapers, periodicals or magazines'.

Your justification that neither you nor your agent was involved in the serialisation rights negotiations for your book does not address this matter adequately.

As before, I am copying this letter to PCC Commissioners. In addition, copies are being sent to members of the Press Standards Board of Finance. I am surprised the Board allowed you to reap the financial reward from the publicity surrounding the serialisation of this book while letting you remain Chairman of the PCC. This is a clear breach of the 'Articles of Association'. I now urge the Board to justify this conflict of interest as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN PRESCOTT

cc PCC Commissioners
Members (Pressbof)