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The World at One, PM, Broadcasting House & The World this Weekend

Dear Mr Abell,

Firstly we would like to thank you for appearing before the commission and giving up your time to answer our questions last week.

As you are probably aware we have been hearing from a variety of people this week including Conservative MP Louise Mensch (formerly Bagshawe). Ms. Mensch is on the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee and after hearing from her we would be keen to get some feedback from you on the committee's recommendations that were made in their report 'Press standards, privacy and libel' which was published in February 2010.

We would like to hear from you what action has been taken since the report? For example have lay members been appointed to the Code Committee and has one of those lay members been appointed Chair of the Committee? Has membership been rebalanced giving a two third majority to lay members? Have there been steps made for the PCC to become more proactive in some cases? Have you looked at making all journalists working for subscribing publications to adhere and sign up to the PCC code? Are you considering changing the name to The Press Complaints and Standards Commission? And will you be following their recommendations in appointing a deputy director for standards?

Also will you be amending the Code to include a requirement that journalists should normally notify the subject of their articles prior to publication? And are you considering imposing financial penalties on publications that seriously breach the code?

We are aware that you have responded to this report on your website however we felt that you might like to take the opportunity to supplement the very clear evidence you gave to us on the 14th June. It is our intention to publish both sides of this short correspondence on our website.

I do hope you will feel able to accept this invitation for there has, as you might expect, been very considerable interest in the role, shape and practices of your organisation.

Many thanks again for appearing before the Commission.

Kind regards,

Sir Michael Lyons- Chair



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