



From the Director

John Stables Esq
Senior Multimedia Executive
Content & Standards
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

5th February 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Stables", written in a cursive style.

I thought I would bring you up to date with the current position on the PCC's remit in relation to audio-visual editorial information on newspaper and magazine websites.

When we met last August, I said that the press had taken the decision in principle that the terms of the Code would apply to such material, providing that various matters could be agreed. This essentially boiled down to defining the remit, given that there would inevitably be some grey areas concerning the extent of editorial responsibility, and given the need not to intrude into any Ofcom territory.

The result is a note, which I have enclosed, which clarifies how the PCC's remit and the Code of Practice will apply to editorial audio-visual material. We have in fact already adjudicated on a complaint about privacy intrusion involving audio material on the News of the World's website. This should be published soon.

We are now going to host a series of training events for online journalists to ensure that they are familiar with the Commission's interpretation of the Code.

I am grateful to you for your support on this subject. Please do let me know if you have any queries.

With kind regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Toulmin", written in a cursive style.

Tim Toulmin

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Sir Christopher Meyer

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Dianne Thompson CBE
Derek Tucker
The Right Rev. John Waine KCVO
Rear Admiral Nick Wilkinson CB

DIRECTOR
Tim Toulmin



SENT
to OFFICE



From the Director

Tim Suter Esq
Partner, Contents & Standards
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

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Rear Admiral Nick Wilkinson CB
- DIRECTOR**
Tim Toulmin





From the Director

Don Foster Esq MP
Shadow Secretary of State for
Culture, Media and Sport
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

5th February 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Foster".

Extension of PCC remit

I thought you might like to hear about an important development in relation to the work of the Press Complaints Commission.

As you know, developments in technology have seen newspaper and magazines disseminating editorial information through a variety of different formats. Increasingly this includes moving pictures and sound on their websites. There has been a lot of thought about what this means for content regulation. Without any external pressure, the industry – in consultation with the Commission – has decided to extend the PCC's remit to include such material. This is obviously a significant step, particularly in light of the inevitability of further developments. It means that the Code's requirements on accuracy, privacy and newsgathering will apply uniformly to online editorial information, subject to two criteria.

It also means, as I understand it, that there is now greater regulation for newspaper and magazine websites than exists for all other news providers. This should be seen not just as a responsible step on the part of the industry, but also as a reassurance to consumers that information online meets particular standards, and that they can complain about it if necessary. I am enclosing a note which outlines the new remit in greater detail.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

With kind regards.

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Tim Toulmin

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John Waine KCVO
Rear Admiral
Nick Wilkinson CB

DIRECTOR
Tim Toulmin



SENT TO OTHERS
IN WESTMINSTER



From the Director

Hugo Swire Esq MP
Shadow Secretary of State for
Culture, Media and Sport
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

5th February 2007

Hugo,

Extension of PCC remit

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DIRECTOR
Tim Toulmin

Halton House, 20/23 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD
T: 020 7831 0022 F: 020 7831 0025 E: complaints@pcc.org.uk
Textphone for deaf or hard of hearing: 020 7831 0123
www.pcc.org.uk

