

NEWS OF THE WORLD

FROM THE
EDITOR

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Tim Toulmin
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May 10th 2007

Dear Tim

Thank you for your letter of April 20 2007.

So far as your first paragraph is concerned we have finessed our rules on cash payments in order to take all steps possible to avoid a repetition of a Goodman-style occurrence.

Though clearly however stringent the rules may be, there can be no absolute protection against a determined wrongdoer.

That said, the protocol, policy and process now in place (to which every member of staff is required to strictly adhere) are as follows:

1. Cash payments are to be kept to a minimum and are the exception.
2. Requests for Cash Payments must be accompanied by compelling and detailed written justification signed off by the relevant department head.
3. Information supplied on Cash Payment Request documents must be accurate and comprehensive.
4. In the exceptional event of a requirement for a Cash Payment to a Confidential Source, the following applies:
 - a. If the department head / staff member requesting the payment asserts that the identity of the source must be withheld, he / she is required to demonstrate clear and convincing justification for such confidentiality.
 - b. A memo detailing the reason for making the payment to a Confidential Source has to be provided to the Managing Editor's office.

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Every cash payment request must be signed off by the relevant Department head.

Thereafter, details of the intended recipient's name and address are verified via the electoral register and / or via other checks to establish they are correct and genuine.

Further, any journalist requesting a cash payment is required, after following the process set out above, to personally endorse by his / her signature each page of the relevant documentation.

Finally, every request for a Cash Payment must be accompanied by the appropriate supporting documentation with a copy of the relevant story attached.

We believe this approach is appropriate in those rare instances of cash payments.

So far as your second paragraph is concerned, we have no objection to you quoting from our revised contracts in your proposed report so long as you clear with us in advance the material you wish to reproduce.

I hope the above is helpful

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box with a thin black border, used to redact the signature of Colin Myler.

Colin Myler