

LORD SOLEY OF HAMMERSMITH



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Dear Sir Christopher,

Information Commissioner's Report: What Price Privacy Now?

Following the Information Commissioners report "What Price Privacy Now" I am writing to ask if you intend to make a strong public statement calling on the relevant editors to inform the people on whom they have collected information that they have been targeted in this way?

I know there will be a small number of cases where intrusion of privacy can be justified by a strong public interest defence such as the exposure of serious criminal activity. That however, will only be a small minority of cases and cannot conceivably justify the mass intrusion practised by some of these papers.

I intend to raise this issue in the House of Lords at the earliest opportunity so it would be helpful to know whether you intend to tell editors that these practices are totally unacceptable unless justified by a strong public interest defence and to confirm that the individuals targeted in this way should be informed as soon as possible.

I need hardly tell you that this is a serious breach of the code. It has been common knowledge that activities like this have been taking place over many years. Can I suggest that if you want the PCC to be seen as an effective regulator then you do need to ensure your voice is heard by the wider public and to be seen on the side of the victims and not the perpetrators.

I look forward to an early reply.

Lord Soley
Yours sincerely,
Lord Soley of Hammersmith.