

PCC resolves complaints from Frances Osborne

The Press Complaints Commission has resolved complaints from Frances Osborne against the Sunday Times and News of the World.

Mrs Osborne complained at the manner in which the newspapers reported the existence of untrue allegations about her in emails sent by Damian McBride. Within 48 hours, the newspapers made satisfactory offers to resolve the complaints. They apologised to Mrs Osborne, removed the details of the allegations from their websites and undertook not to republish them.

The Sunday Times ran the following wording yesterday on page 2:

“A complaint about last week's coverage of the Damian McBride affair was made by Frances Osborne to the Press Complaints Commission. That complaint was resolved after The Sunday Times agreed not to republish Mr McBride's untrue smears in relation to Mrs Osborne and to remove specific references to them from our website.”

The News of the World ran the following, as part of its follow-up coverage of the story on page 11:

“A complaint about last week's coverage of the Damian McBride affair was made by Frances Osborne to the Press Complaints Commission. That complaint was resolved after the News of the World agreed not to republish Mr McBride's lies in relation to Mrs Osborne and to remove all specific references to them from our website.”

ENDS

20 April 2009