

PCC criticises Scottish News of the World for privacy intrusion

The Press Complaints Commission has today published an adjudication following a privacy complaint against the Scottish News of the World.

Mr Brian McNicholl complained that the newspaper had published extracts of private email correspondence, through which, it said, he had been engaging in “secret internet sexychat with a string of Kazakhstani beauties”. He said that this information – together with a revealing webcam picture of him – had been obtained, without consent, from his former partner and had intruded into his privacy.

The Commission considered that such an intrusion would normally require a very strong public interest justification, something that was not a feature in this case. While it accepted that the complainant’s former partner had a right to discuss her relationship with the complainant, the Commission concluded that “in deciding how to balance the woman’s right to free expression with the complainant’s right to privacy, the editor had made an error of judgement”. The complaint was upheld under Clause 3 (Privacy) of the Code.

The newspaper printed the adjudication in its latest edition. To read the full adjudication, [click here](#)

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For further information, please contact Stephen Abell on 020 7831 0022.

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