

>Date: Thu, 14 Jul 2011 16:18:27 +0100
>>To: k.crowe
>>From: Noel Doran [redacted]
>>Subject: pcc - two separate statements
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>>
>>Editor's statement.
>>
>>Our coverage of the case of Pedro Delgado was an important part of our
>>wider investigation into the cost of overseas training trips by
>>National Health Service officials from Northern Ireland. As we have
>>reported, at least £350,000 has been spent flying senior staff to a
>>range of destinations since 2007. The trips continued despite an
>>instruction by the then minister for health, Michael McGimpsey, that
>>they should only be considered in exceptional circumstances, at a
>>time
>>when thousands of NHS jobs and the future of an entire hospital were
>>at risk.
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>>Our intention at all times was to act in the public interest by
>>establishing the final bill to the tax-payer for the training courses
>>and explaining the much less expensive options which were readily
>>available and did not involve international travel.
>>
>>It quickly emerged that Mr Delgado had completed more foreign trips
>>than any other NHS executive - 11 in the space of three years -
>>travelling to Paris, Berlin, Sweden, San Diego, Nashville, Florida
>>and, on five occasions, to Boston, at a cost to public funds which
>>was
>>not less than £32,000. We also confirmed that he then obtained a job
>>in the USA with one of the organisations which provided his training.
>>
>>We have always accepted and made clear that Mr Delgado's visits were
>>properly authorised by senior colleagues, and we regret any upset
>>caused by our coverage, but we also believe that our readers and the
>>wider public are entitled to know exactly how their money is spent on
>>international training initiatives.
>>
>>A detailed memo from our health correspondent, Seanin Graham
>>(enclosed) responds to each of the points raised by Mr Delgado in his
>>letter to the Press Complaints Commission, and I believe that we were
>>also fully justified in carrying a front-page photograph of him.
>>
>>Mr Delgado, as well as being a high-profile NHS administrator, played
>>semi-professional football for a number of Irish League teams,
>>including the biggest and most successful club in Northern Ireland,
>>Linfield FC. A range of images from Mr Delgado's prominent sporting
>>career could easily have been published, but we simply used the most
>>recent picture which was available to us. It was a head and shoulders
>>shot, which did not include any members of his family, and, despite
>>the claims from Mr Delgado, there was never any suggestion by the
>>Irish News that he had been at a beach when he should have been
>>attending a training course.
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>>We approached Mr Delgado during our research, and his comments
>>defending the training programmes were used as part of both our front

>>page and inside page reports. He has accepted that he did not
>>subsequently contact us to raise concerns about any of our references
>>to him before writing to the PCC, although we also informed his
>>solicitors that we would be happy to run a letter from him.
>>

>>>I feel that all our coverage relating to Mr Delgado has been
>>>demonstrably in the public interest, while also reflecting the
>>>highest possible editorial standards, and I am absolutely confident
>>>that at no stage we been in breach of any aspect of the PCC's Code
of
>>>Practice.

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>>>Noel Doran,
>>>Editor,
>>>The Irish News

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>>>>Memo from Seanin Graham, health correspondent.

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>>>>1. Mr Delgado claims that the article implies he authorised travel
>>>>for himself and that all the money used was from taxpayers'
>>>>contributions - which he claims is inaccurate.
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>>>>In relation to the first point, the inside article on P9 makes
clear

>>>>that John Compton, former chief executive of the South Eastern
>>>>health trust "approved" Mr Delgado's travel "prior to 2008". There
>>>>is even a picture with Mr Compton and Mr Delgado to accompany the
>>>>article. The article also makes clear that Dr Noeleen Deveney, who
>>>>was appointed director of the Safety Forum in 2008, "subsequently
>>>>approved all spending for training". The article makes clear Mr
>>>>Delgado's managers approved the funding.

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>>>>b) We were sent information from the Public Health Agency on
>>>>November 9, 2010, which outlined the amount spent by the Forum on
>>>>2007/8 and 2010/11 on overseas
>>>>course/conference fees, accommodation and travel. Much of Mr
>>>>Delgado's overseas travel costs were included within this document
>>>>(though no individual is named). There is no reference to
charitable
>>>>donations in this official documentation. We understand that this
>>>>was Safety Forum money only - ie taxpayers' money, as the Safety
>>>>Forum receives its funding from the Department of Health.

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>>>>2. In relation to the article's "implication" that he lived in US:
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>>>>I emailed Mr Delgado several times to query the type of courses
>>>>offered by the US Institute for Health Improvement (where he is now
>>>>an executive director) to Northern Ireland health service managers.
>>>>Through our email correspondence, Mr Delgado's address was listed
as

>>>>20 University Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. It was only logical
to
>>>>assume he was based there. Also, in a December 14 email, he said he
>>>>been busy travelling extensively "across the globe".
>>>>
>>>>I also emailed Mr Delgado on December 14 to query if he had
>>>>travelled travelled to Boston, Paris, San Diego, Berlin, Sweden,
>>>>Nashville and Florida between 2007/08 and during his time with the
>>>>Safety Forum in NI. He replied "yes".
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>>>>Mr Delgado also claims the costs quoted in the Irish News article
>>>>were "exaggerated". If anything, the costs are a significant
>>>>underestimated as they exclude subsistence costs.
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>>>>3. Privacy: Mr Delgado was a high-profile health administrator who
>>>>was paid out of the public purse. He was also playing Irish League
>>>>football and was a public figure.
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>>>>Seanin