



Upholding information rights

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Ofcom
27 JUL 2011
Chief Executive's Office

25 July 2011

Dear Ed,

Many thanks for your letter of 19 July about News Corporation and the "fit and proper person" work that is ongoing at Ofcom.

Our acting Head of Enforcement, Sally Anne Poole, is the best contact for Chris Woolard. Sally has been on leave and is only back today. I'm sure she will be in touch with Chris as soon as she is back in harness. Sally's direct telephone number is and her email address is

In the meantime, the material seized from the private investigator Steve Whittamore in 2003 in the so-called Operation Motorman, which was the basis for the ICO reports What Price Privacy? and What Price Privacy Now?, profiled a widespread practice across Fleet Street of accessing personal information which, on the face of it, should have remained private. Any prosecutions under Section 55 of the Data Protection Act would have been open to a public interest defence. Since we chose to report the phenomenon to Parliament rather than go after individual journalists, titles or media groups I doubt we could offer any definitive view as to the legality or otherwise of any particular media company's use of this material. All the Motorman files are at the disposal of the Metropolitan Police's Operation Weeting, and I believe that the police will be in a better position to respond to your enquiries in this area.

Yours ever
Chris

Christopher Graham
Information Commissioner

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Email:



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