



6 September 2011

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TONY CLOSE
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Direct line:

Dear David

Operation Motorman

I am writing to thank you for the helpful telephone conversations we have had in recent days and to ask the Information Commissioner's Office formally for some further information.

In its 2006 report *What price privacy?*, the Information Commissioner identified an industry in the buying and selling of unlawfully obtained personal data for the press, based on documents seized during a raid on a private investigator's premises and in other investigations. I understand that the evidence obtained then documented "literally thousands" section 55 offences by the press, but that enforcement action was not taken in the vast majority of these potential cases due to disappointing outcomes in the Courts.

You informed me in our call on 22 August 2011 that in the course of this work, the Information Commissioner's Office identified a very small number of counts on which broadcasters regulated by Ofcom appear to have obtained personal information from private investigators.

In light of Ofcom's duty, in relation to TV and radio broadcasters, to apply standards which provide adequate protection to members of the public from unwarranted infringements of privacy, I am writing to you to ask for all the information and evidence the Information Commissioner's Office holds in relation to acquisition of personal data by broadcasters in a manner which may have been unlawful.

I would be very grateful if you could provide this information by 19 September 2011.

Yours sincerely

Tony Close