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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Raeburn".

I'm doing some research into the funding of self-regulatory bodies and was hoping it might be possible to find out more about the funding of the Press Complaints Commission, the Editorial Code Committee, and the Press Board of Finance?

In evidence submitted to the culture media and sport select committee, the Press Standards Board stated:

"Since it was established in 1991, the industry has invested close to £30 million in the work of the Commission through the Press Standards Board of Finance [PressBoF].

"Registration fees are paid across the industry - from national, regional and magazine publishers throughout the UK - and although the levy is voluntary, compliance has always been extremely high."

The Board also explained the temporary withdrawal of Northern and Shell "from the system" but reassured the committee that:

"In the meantime PressBoF's investment in the PCC is unaffected"

The last set of accounts of the PressBoF, filed with Companies House state that PressBoF had a turnover of £2,078,331 in 2008 from which £1,981,000 was direct to the Press Complaints Commission.

The accounts also state that the board of directors comprises representatives of the Newspaper Publishers' Association, the Newspaper Society, Periodical Publishers' Association, the Scottish Daily Newspaper Society and the Scottish Newspaper Publishers Association.

The accounts of the Newspaper Publishers' Association show a turnover of £1,233,970 for 2007 – the last year for which the accounts are available.

There appears to be little other publicly available information.

I understand from the Press Complaints Commission website that:

The Press Standards Board of Finance (PressBoF) . . . ensures secure financial support for the PCC, while its complete independence is at the same time guaranteed by a majority of lay members, and is a further sign of the industry's commitment to effective self-regulation.

I was hoping, therefore, that you might be able to provide a breakdown of the sources of income for PressBoF? In particular, I'm interested in the actual amounts paid towards the PCC by each news organisation in each of the last three years, and what process was used to decide on the amount paid (e.g. the ASA states that it is funded 'by a levy of 0.1% on display advertising and airtime and 0.2% on Royal Mail Mailsort contract').

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Cain