

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

From the Chairman

Stewart Jackson MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

2nd March 2010

Dear Stewart,

Your constituent: Mr Robert Dolby

Thank you for your letter of 1st March, regarding the concerns of your constituent.

I am delighted to reassure Mr Dolby about the independence of the PCC, and am grateful for the opportunity to do so. It is vital that we inform possible complainants about how the PCC works, so that they can have faith in the system.

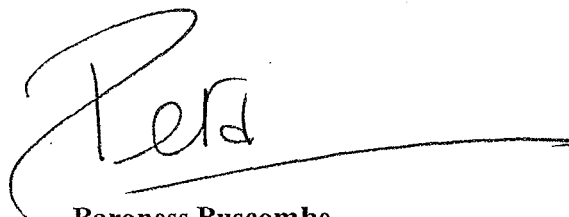
It is true that there are a minority of editors (from national newspapers, regional newspapers and magazines) sitting on the Commission. This is useful, because they provide expertise of the industry and are in a good position to know when their industry standards have been breached.

However, there are some further crucial points to note. These editors are outweighed by a clear majority of public members, people with no connection to the industry at all. As Chairman of the PCC, I also have no links to newspapers or magazines. I can also confirm that, if a complaint is made about a newspaper edited by a Commissioner, the Commissioner plays no role at all in the consideration of the complaint (he or she receives no correspondence on the case, and leaves the room when it is discussed).

So, I can unequivocally tell Mr Dolby that, if he makes a complaint to the PCC, there will be no-one with a financial interest in the paper involved in his complaint. The PCC offers a fair complaints process, and a straightforward means for readers to obtain redress. I hope that he will come to us, if he ever feels he has a complaint to make.

If you or Mr Dolby would like to discuss this further, please let me know.

With kind regards.



Baroness Buscombe

CHAIRMAN
Baroness Buscombe

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