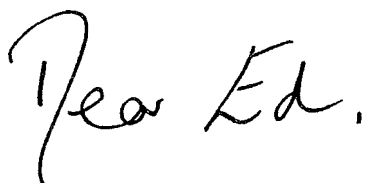


## PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

*From the Chairman*

Ed Miliband MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

26<sup>th</sup> April 2011



I was disappointed to read your comments in the Guardian on 20th April 2011. I appreciate you made the comments in good faith but I would be very keen to meet you to inform you about the work of the PCC and its role in raising press standards, protecting the public and enabling free expression.

As you will appreciate, the public need a system to offer them speedy and ideally cost-free redress. That is why there is a need for the PCC to independently uphold the agreed and binding self-regulatory Code of Practice. The PCC offers a public service: one that has stood the test of time and is well placed to adapt to future needs and developments. It has stood the test of time because it serves everybody; from those affected by a bereavement reported in their local paper to a celebrity being pursued by paparazzi.

In 2010, the PCC issued approximately 1800 rulings on complaints framed under the Editors' Code; it acted to prevent media harassment 100 times; it made proactive contact with those at the centre of media storms 25 times; it settled over 540 complaints amicably. It made some precedent-setting rulings that will impact on editorial decisions in newsrooms, and therefore the lives of people who might be featured in the press in the future. It hosted 60 seminars to reinforce those rulings, and to educate the industry and so raise standards.

A lot of the effective work performed by the PCC is below the surface. It is reflected in the articles that do not appear, the journalists that do not turn up on someone's doorstep, and the stories that are not pursued. Many people contact us to use our anti-harassment mechanism whereby messages to editors to call off their photographers and reporters are passed on. It has a near one hundred per cent success rate.

**CHAIRMAN**  
Baroness Buscombe

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**  
Matti Alderson  
John Home Robertson  
Anthony Longden  
Ian MacGregor  
John McLellan  
Ian Nichol  
Lindsay Nicholson  
Simon Reynolds  
Esther Robertson  
Eve Salomon  
Simon Sapper  
Julie Spence OBE QPM  
Professor Ian Walden  
Tina Weaver  
Peter Wright

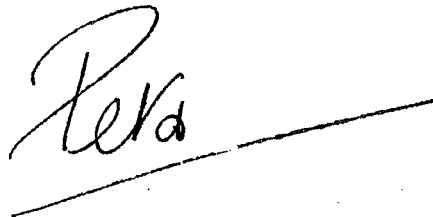
**DIRECTOR**  
Stephen Abell



Public support for the PCC remains buoyant and recent nationally weighted polling April 2011 shows that of the general public 79% have no concerns over confidence in the PCC and indeed awareness of the PCC is high (80 per cent).

We are obviously pleased there is public confidence in the PCC but are not complacent. As mentioned I would be eager for the chance to talk to you and inform you about the work of the PCC.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Peta', followed by a horizontal line.

**Baroness Buscombe**

