

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

From the Chairman

Rt Hon Jim Murphy
East Renfrewshire Parliamentary Office
2 Stewart Drive
Clarkston
East Renfrewshire G76 7EZ

15th June 2011

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your letter of 10th June.

I enclose a copy of the Editors' Code of Practice, which the PCC independently enforces. As you will see, Clause 6 (Children) is relevant in the following areas:

A child under 16 must not be interviewed or photographed on issues involving their own or another child's welfare unless a custodial parent or similarly responsible adult consents.

Pupils must not be approached or photographed at school without the permission of the school authorities.

Parental consent is, therefore, required should photographs relate to the welfare of the child, and the school's consent is always required for photographs taken on school property.

In my experience, newspapers generally have agreements with the organisers of events about using photographs, especially of children. It would be useful to know whether your constituents are aware of any such arrangements in this case.

We would be happy to look at this matter formally, if you would like. And please do call us, if you – or your constituents – would like to discuss the relevant issues on a confidential basis.

With kind regards.

Perd

Baroness Buscombe

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