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Press Complaints Commission

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From the Chairman

21 February 2006

Terry Grote Esq
Managing Director
Independent News and Media plc
Independent House
191 Marsh Wall
London
E14 9RS

Terry Mr. Grote,

Compliance with the PCC Code in journalists' contracts

I am writing to find out the current position of Independent News and Media with regard to including compliance with the PCC's Code of Practice in its journalists' contracts of employment.

This was an initiative to which the industry agreed in the 1990s as a way of improving both respect for the Code within the industry and the public's confidence in the strength of self-regulation. In our view, it has succeeded in both aims. At the time of the last Select Committee inquiry into media intrusion in 2003, the evidence suggested that most national newspapers incorporated such a provision in their standard contracts with journalists and editors. Last year, I gave a speech saying that I would now like to see all newspapers move towards such contractual compliance.

I shall be giving another speech in the Spring – probably in May – and I would like to bring the audience up to date on where we have got to. It would be very helpful if you could let me know what the current position now is at Independent News and Media.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,
Christopher Meyer
Sir Christopher Meyer

Chairman
Sir Christopher Meyer

Members of the Commission
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