

**Stephen Abell**

---

**From:** Stephen Abell  
**Sent:** 18 January 2010 12:06  
**To:** 'john.dale@bauer.co.uk'  
**Subject:** Your letter

Dear John

Thank you for your letter of 15<sup>th</sup> January.

I am grateful for your thoughts on these two stories. There are a couple of practical points that arise here. Firstly, as it stands, the PCC cannot consider complaints from one publisher (or editor) about another. This is to avoid the PCC becoming embroiled in internecine squabbles between competitors, which would pull our resources away from helping individual complainants (our primary purpose). Secondly, without a complaint (and your concerns are based on suspicions at this point), it is not clear how the PCC would be able to take up this issue formally.

I am conscious, of course, that your interest here is in raising standards and do not want to obstruct that. The first approach may be to influence how the PCC can handle such concerns in future. As you know, there is an ongoing Governance Review examining our structures and procedures: <http://www.pccgovernancereview.org.uk>. Perhaps you might contact them (and this can be done confidentially), to indicate your view that the PCC should take on more general concerns about standards?

In the meantime, I will keep these examples on file here.

Do give me a call if you would like to discuss this.

Very best

Stephen

**Stephen Abell**  
Director

Press Complaints Commission  
Halton House  
20/23 Holborn  
London EC1N 2JD

Tel: 020 7831 0022  
Website: [www.pcc.org.uk](http://www.pcc.org.uk)

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

**Email Disclaimer**

The information contained in this email and any attached files are confidential and intended for the named addressee only. It contains information which may be confidential and legally privileged and also protected by copyright. Unless you are the named addressee (or authorised to receive for the addressee) you may not copy or use it, or disclose it to anyone else. If you received it in error please notify the sender immediately or the system manager ([pcc@pcc.org.uk](mailto:pcc@pcc.org.uk)) and then delete it from your system. We make every effort to keep our network free from viruses. However, you do need to check this e-mail and any attachments to it for viruses as we can take no responsibility for any computer virus which may be transferred by way of this e-mail. Use of this or any other e-mail facility signifies consent to any interception we might lawfully carry out to prevent abuse of these facilities.

Press Complaints Commission, Halton House, 20-23 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD