

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 15th 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

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PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

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