

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

From the Director

Your ref: 5325

Nicola Blackwood MP
Member of Parliament for Oxford West and Abingdon
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

11th May 2011

Dear Ms Blackwood

Thank you for your letter of 30 April on behalf of your constituent, Mr Hugh Palmer of

The Commission understand Mr Palmer's concerns about the coverage of Chris Jefferies; indeed, we received around 20 complaints from members of the public at the time of the coverage.

Clearly, the Commission must bear in mind the wishes of Mr Jefferies in the first instance, as his knowledge and consent would be vital to any investigation of the coverage, which featured in several newspapers.

With this in mind, the Commission sought proactively to contact Mr Jefferies through his solicitors to offer its services, both at the time of the articles and at the end of January 2011. It has made further contact with the solicitors following Mr Jefferies' release from bail and will continue to make itself available to him.

While the Commission recognises the legitimate concerns raised about the coverage, it does not consider that it is able to consider the matter formally at the current time, particularly as your constituent (and the other complainants) do not represent Mr Jefferies in addition to confirmation that Mr Jefferies is taking legal action against the newspapers in question (which would preclude the Commission from investigating the matter until any action was concluded).

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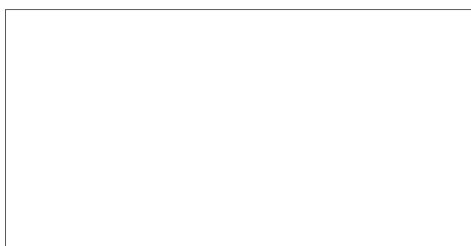
DIRECTOR
Stephen Abell



However, it is important to emphasise that the Commission is aware of the issues raised by the case. It has been in contact with the Attorney General on the matter, and will continue to consider the right manner in which to work to raise standards in this area. This may include acting upon information from Mr Jefferies himself.

I would be happy to discuss this, or any other issues relating to press self-regulation, further with you, if you would like. Please feel free to contact me when convenient.

Yes re



Stephen Abell

