For Distribution to CPs

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION -

From the Director

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1st September 2006

I thought you might be interested in a recent privacy case adjudicated by the Press Complaints Commission, as it touches on an issue that I know can cause concern to some people in the public eye.

As you may know, the PCC is an independent body which deals with complaints about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines – particularly about the accuracy of articles, and whether or not they intrude into people's privacy. It can also help when people feel they are being harassed by journalists. There is a set of rules under which people can complain, which I enclose.

The PCC is not a legal system but works to find quick, common sense resolutions to problems when people do not want the expense, risk or hassle of going to court. Failing that, it can issue rulings like the one I am enclosing, which the offending publication must publish prominently. Anyone affected by an article or by unwanted attention can complain – but others choose to do so through lawyers or agents.

If you would like more information about the PCC and how we might be able to help, please do get in touch with my office to arrange a meeting. My PA, Kim Baxter, can be contacted on 020 7831 0022 or <u>kim.baxter@pcc.org.uk</u>. If you have any queries you would like me to address privately, my e-mail address is <u>tim.toulmin@pcc.org.uk</u>.

With kind regards.

Since

Tim Toulmin

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