

From the Director

Hugo Swire MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

18 February 2008

Dear Hugo,

I was most interested to read about your proposals for an Internet Standards Authority, to be modelled loosely on the PCC. I agree with you that – in a digital era when people are communicating on a global level through new, unregulated media – self-regulatory solutions present the best chance of raising standards in this tricky area.

At the PCC, we are also concerned about the way in which social networking sites such as Facebook have encouraged people to volunteer vast amounts of private information about themselves. This is fine for people who are never going to be the focus of any public scrutiny. The problem if you are a member of the public is that it is impossible to foresee whether you are ever going to be relevant to a news story. If you are, all the pictures and information about you online can get republished in the mainstream media whether you consent to it or not.

We are commissioning some research into public attitudes into this new area, as well as sponsoring a Westminster Media Forum event to discuss it on June 5th.

In the meantime, it would be good to catch up again. If you are free for lunch soon it would be a pleasure to see you. Alternatively, if the diary is

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Sir Christopher Meyer

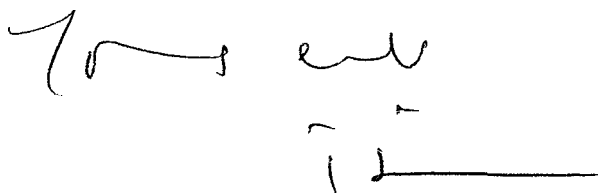
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DIRECTOR
Tim Toulmin



a bit busy, I would be happy to come to you for a cup of tea. Perhaps someone from your office could be in touch with my PA Kim Baxter on 020 74381242 or kim.baxter@pcc.org.uk.

With kind regards.

Handwritten signature of Tim Toulmin, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by 'oulmin' and a horizontal line below.

Tim Toulmin

