



From the Director

Jim Sheridan MP
Mirren Court Three
123 Renfrew Road
Paisley
Renfrewshire
PA3 4EA

24 June 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Tim Toulmin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Thank you for giving me notice of your intention to bring forward a 10 minute rule bill.

I see that the thrust of this bill appears to concern the editors' Code of Practice. The Code is written and reviewed by a separate body from the PCC. If you have any questions about its content or the manner in which it is reviewed it would be best to approach the Committee's Secretary. His address is:

Ian Beales OBE
Secretary, Editors' Code of Practice Committee
PO Box 235
Stonehouse
GL10 3UF

His e-mail address is ianbeales@mac.com.

If your focus is to be on the PCC, obviously we would resist any suggestion that we should be put under a statutory control. There seems to be plenty of evidence that both people who use our service, and members of the public at large, have confidence in the system – which, as you know, seeks to balance the rights of the individual with the right of the press and journalists to free expression. Our annual report, which I enclose, sets out in detail how we achieve this. You will see from page

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DIRECTOR
Tim Toulmin



11 that last year the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee examined the performance of the PCC in a number of areas and, while it had one or two suggestions about how we could improve, it endorsed the principle of self-regulation of the press, was opposed to a privacy law, and praised our 'valuable' pre-publication work.

If you have any specific questions then please do let me know.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Tim Toulmin

