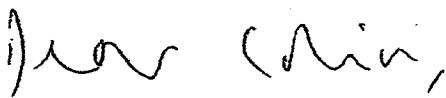


PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

From the Director

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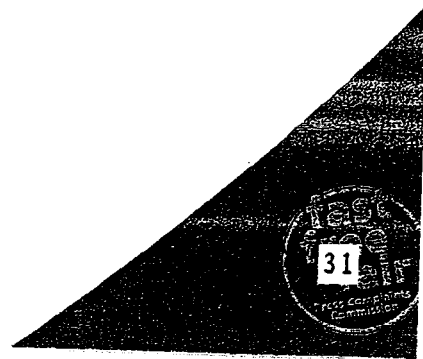
3rd September 2009



Thank you for your letter of 5th August in reply to mine about the Guardian's phone message tapping allegations.

I am just writing to ask for two small points of clarification. I have now obtained a copy of the judge's sentencing remarks in the Mulcaire/Goodman case. These include the reference to Mulcaire dealing with 'others' at News International which was highlighted by Paul Farrelly MP during your appearance before the Select Committee. Confronted with the same point at the Select Committee on the 2nd September, Assistant Commissioner John Yates said that it did not seem extraordinary for Mulcaire to have had dealings with a number of different people at the paper given his role as a private investigator. The key point therefore seems to be not whether he had contact with other people, but whether these people were aware that the information that he passed to them had been obtained illegally. Anything that you can do to clarify this point would be welcome. Would it be correct to assume that your internal inquiries would in any event have sought to establish whether others at the paper were aware of Mulcaire's illegal activities?

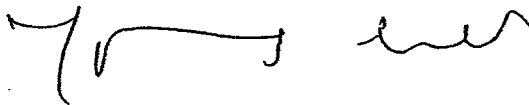
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Secondly, I just wanted to tie down the point about Clive Goodman being the Royal Editor while most of the targets were nothing to do with the Royal Family. Did any of the charges to which he (rather than Mulcaire) pleaded guilty relate to individuals who were nothing to do with the Royal Family? Might he in any case have been expected to suggest other stories in his capacity as editor of the Blackadder column (it would be helpful if you could confirm whether or not he held this position at the relevant point)? I mention this because I see that part of his plea of mitigation was that he was under pressure at work, and felt the need to impress his then superiors by coming up with stories.

I would be grateful for your comments on these two points and look forward to hearing from you soon.

With kind regards.



Tim Toulmin

