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Press Complaints Commission

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Sir Christopher Meyer

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From the Director

8 August 2005

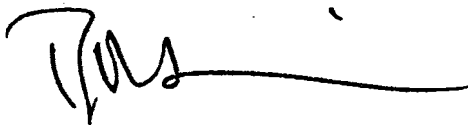
Ian Reeves Esq
Editor
Press Gazette
19 Scarbrook Road
Croydon
CR9 1LX

Director
Tim Toulmin

Dear Sir

“The PCC was pressured [by the Information Commissioner] for a year to stop newspapers using private detectives to obtain confidential information illegally”, Mark Watts claimed last week in Press Gazette. Really? The Information Commissioner was pushing at an open door so far as the PCC was concerned regarding his request for us to issue guidance about the Data Protection Act. We have made clear many times that the Commission cannot condone criminal behaviour. In this case, the dull truth is that the guidance was somewhat delayed by detailed queries from one of the trade bodies. It’s hardly fair to us or the Information Commissioner to say he pressured us: when this hurdle arose we heard nothing from his office for eight months while the matter was considered further. Anyone interested should go to www.pcc.org.uk and look under Guidance Notes.

Yours faithfully



Tim Toulmin

Salisbury Square London EC4Y 8JB Telephone 020 7353 1248 Facsimile 020 7353 8355
Telephone for deaf or hard of hearing: 020 7583 2264
Email: complaints@pcc.org.uk website: www.pcc.org.uk

