

26 July 06

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6. Any other business

- (i) The Chairman informed the Commission about a meeting with John Whittingdale MP, Chairman of the CMS Select Committee. The Chairman and Director have been invited to have an informal session with the Committee later in the year.
- (ii) Data Protection. The Chairman told the Commission about a meeting with the Information Commissioner, in which the latter had suggested that the Commission publish some 'plain English' guidance about the application of the Data Protection Act, and that the Code Committee amend the Code to reflect some of the requirements of the Act as they relate to journalism. It was also noted that there is a Department of Constitutional Affairs consultation underway proposing greater penalties for journalists who breach the terms of the Act.
- (iii) There was also consultation from the DCA about inquests, which included restricting the right of the press in some circumstances to report on them. The editors present confirmed that the proposals were a matter of grave concern for the industry, and it was agreed that the Chairman should write to the relevant minister with reservations about the proposal.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Commission was arranged for **2 pm** on **Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2006** at Halton House, 20/23 Holborn, London EC1.