

THE PRESS STANDARDS BOARD OF FINANCE LIMITED
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Editors' Code of Practice Committee

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Richard Thomas, Esq.,
Information Commissioner,
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28 April 2007

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your comments on the proposed Code changes. As I am sure you will appreciate, full consultation with the industry at large is an essential component of any successful voluntary self-regulatory regime and so the draft amendments have now gone out to the trade associations for their comments. Assuming there is general agreement, the proposals will then go forward to the independent Press Complaints Commission for ratification in June, when a date will be set from which the changes take effect.

We announce Code changes via an explanatory news release, which is widely circulated and, as you would expect, fully reported in the trade press and beyond. This, together with the industry's acute interest in these matters – often further stimulated by the consultative process itself – guarantees very high awareness throughout the print media. The question of 'burying' changes within the body of the Code simply does not arise.

I have noted your continuing commitment to stronger penalties and will of course convey that to the Committee. I think it fair to say that both the industry and the PCC remain equally firmly against such proposals and have demonstrated a very strong case against them. That case would be further strengthened by the introduction of the draft Code changes.

I will keep you informed of progress and look forward to seeing the joint ICO/industry guidance on section 55 in due course.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Ian Beales

Secretary, Editors' Code of Practice Committee

cc Ms Belinda Crowe, DCA;
Sir Christopher Meyer, PCC.
cfi Leslie Hinton

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