

EMBARGOED: 13.00 Hrs 24 November 2008

Meyer: press must do more to entrench self-regulation

In a speech tonight at the Manchester Art Gallery, Sir Christopher Meyer will say that the current good record on self-regulation is 'not enough' - and that a combination of media convergence and the developing law of privacy means that more must be done to establish self-regulation as the preferred model of content regulation once and for all. He will say:

"Take all this together, and the challenge to the PCC and to the press is obvious. We must all raise our game. That means thinking creatively how, in this intensely fluid environment, self-regulation can deliver the goods more effectively. It is not divinely ordained that our system of regulation is here for all eternity. It has its enemies. There are other, competing models.

So, the aim must be to show beyond all doubt not only that the PCC's model of independent regulation, with its unique ability rapidly to adjust to developments, is the one best suited for the age of on-line publishing; but that also, on matters of privacy, it is, in its mediation capacity, increasingly preferable to litigation."

He will call for newspapers, magazines and websites to do more to publicise the PCC, and warn that media discontentment with the Human Rights Act should not tempt them to think that a Parliament-enacted privacy law would be the answer. He will also suggest that some media lawyers ignore the sheer range of services that the PCC offers on the protection of privacy, from preventative pre-publication work through to apologies, undertakings, removal of intrusive material from the internet, and ex-gratia payments in some circumstances. These are obtained quickly and at no cost to the complainant.

Sir Christopher will be hosting the dinner in Manchester with the board of the Press Complaints Commission ahead of a meeting tomorrow, at which the PCC will discuss how to exploit further the opportunities presented by media convergence, and how self-regulation should move forward against the backdrop of the developing privacy law.

To read the speech in full, click [here](#)

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