

PCC to investigate newspaper payments to parents of Alfie Patten

The Press Complaints Commission has announced an inquiry into alleged payments by The Sun and the People to the parents of Alfie Patten.

Clause 6 (iv) of the Editors' Code of Practice says:

"Minors must not be paid for material involving children's welfare, nor parents or guardians for material about their children or wards, unless it is clearly in the child's interests".

Newspapers are allowed to breach this rule if there is a demonstrable public interest. The PCC will make a public ruling on the matter when it has completed its investigation. The Commission has powers - under which it is conducting this inquiry - to launch investigations of its own volition.

ENDS

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