

PCC publishes new guidance note regarding the Data Protection Act

1. Data Protection Act, Journalism and the PCC Code

The Guidance Note was compiled with the help of the Information Commissioner to provide general guidance about the provisions of the Act and its impact on journalists. It includes details of the journalistic exemptions and the public interest defence, but makes clear that there is a specific criminal offence of unlawfully obtaining, and selling, personal data. To read the note [click here](#)

2. Adjudications

The Commission has adjudicated a complaint from footballer Frank Lampard regarding allegations in the News of the World that he had had a sexual relationship with glamour model Jodie Marsh and that Ms Marsh had explicit photographs of the encounters. While Mr Lampard denied ever having any form of relationship with Ms Marsh, the newspaper was able to provide a signed witness statement from her, in which she alleged that she had had two sexual encounters - stopping short of full intercourse - with the complainant when they were teenagers. She made clear that no photographs of the couple existed. As the newspaper offered to publish the complainant's denial, and correct the point about the photographs, the Commission was satisfied that there were no further issues under Clause 1 (Accuracy) of the Code to pursue.

To read the full adjudication [click here](#)

The Commission has rejected accuracy complaints from a woman against the News Shopper and the South London Press, regarding reports over the inquest into her daughter's death. The complaints were also framed under Clauses 3 (Privacy), 5 (Intrusion into grief or shock) and 9 (Reporting of crime). While the Commission sympathised with the complainant, it did not consider that a breach of the Code had been established by the complaint.

To read the full adjudication [click here](#)

ENDS

For further information, please contact Stephen Abell on 020 7353 1248

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