

Statement by Lord Wakeham on the Human Rights Bill

"I welcome the Home Secretary's announcement this afternoon that the Government intends to amend the Human Rights Bill.

I will clearly need to look at the detail of the amendment to ensure it delivers the objectives – but I am confident that it can do so.

I am pleased that the Government has confirmed its view that the system of self regulation and the work of the Press Complaints Commission is better able to deliver the rights of the Convention than any form of statutory law of privacy. It is in line with the Government's stated intention to safeguard the work of the PCC and the freedom of the press. It will ensure that there should be none of the disadvantages that I foresaw in the PCC being a public authority under the Bill."

ENDS

16 February 1998