

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

From the Chairman

15 January 2008

Richard Desmond Esq
Chairman
Northern and Shell
10 Lower Thames Street
London
EC3R 6EN

Dear Richard,

I know you are busy, but it seems a while since we last met, and I would welcome the chance to catch up with you.

In particular, now that the Express has withdrawn from the NPA, it would be helpful to talk about how we can keep the papers within the PCC system. The benefits to newspapers of subscribing to the scheme are numerous: sorting out complaints through us (particularly about privacy matters) minimises the risk of crippling expensive court cases and legal settlements; it delivers opt-outs for journalists from numerous pieces of legislation such as the Investment Recommendation Regulations; and it keeps the government from legislating on the areas that the press Code of Practice covers. In fact, last year – when the public used our services in record numbers – the Government, Opposition and the Select Committee for Culture, Media and Sport all came out in favour of self-regulation. I know that the subscription to the PCC is not cheap – [redacted] – but I strongly believe that the costs of staying outside the system, particularly in legal fees, would be much higher.

CHAIRMAN

Sir Christopher Meyer

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I think it should be quite easy to subscribe directly to the Press Standards Board of Finance. It would be good to see you to talk these things through.

With kind regards.

Yours etc



Sir Christopher Meyer

