

see 10/11/06

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RJT 25

Leslie Hinton
Executive Chairman

RECEIVED

17th November, 2006

Mr Richard Thomas
Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

No comment to
amend Code.
RJT 22/11

Dear Richard

Thank you for meeting us. I found the discussion extremely useful and hope it can form part of a continuing dialogue. We very much welcome your commitment to the self-regulatory system. It will help the Code Committee to consolidate its approach in this area.

As I mentioned, the industry fully accepts that if there is press participation in an illegal trade in confidential information, this will need to be addressed and, having now had the opportunity to consult, I feel sure the Code Committee will be prepared to play its full part.

In particular, we would strongly support the industry associations in their various initiatives to draw to the attention of senior management the issues raised by What Price Privacy? and to distribute through their members simple guidance for journalists formulated in close consultation with the ICO.

We intend to include such guidance in the updated version of The Editors' Codebook - the official handbook to the Code - which is expected to be posted on a new Editors' Code website which we plan to launch next year. This will provide an influential and accessible medium for reinforcing the message of the Code and setting it in context, for the benefit of both the industry and of potential complainants.

These are major initiatives designed to raise awareness of the concerns raised in your report and we hope and believe they will prove effective. We will keep the Code under constant review in the light of these measures.

Mr Richard Thomas

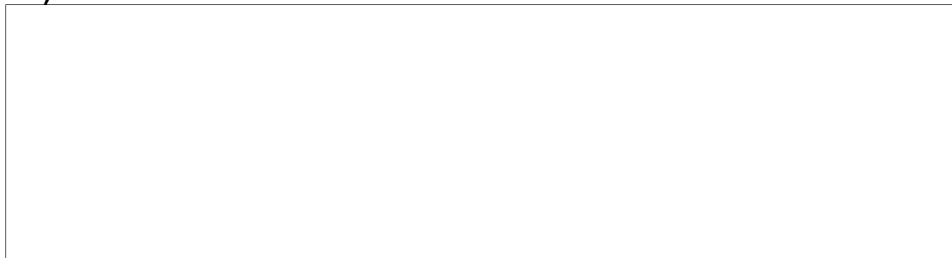
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Of course, that would not preclude you, or any one else, at any stage in this process, from putting forward independently suggestions for changes of the Code, which the Code Committee would consider in the normal way.

I believe these are positive measures and achievable objectives that I hope will help to foster a constructive relationship between us as the situation develops.

Yours ever



Leslie Hinton

Chairman, Editors' Code of Practice Committee