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Information Commissioner's Office
Promoting public access to official information
and protecting your personal information

Paul Dacre
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5 August 2008

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 25 July, which I regard as very encouraging.

I am glad that the Code Committee is making progress with reviewing data protection provisions in the Code, Guidance and Codebook. It would be helpful if you could let me know your target date for completion. Please do not hesitate to indicate if you would like any comment on draft text.

I am also pleased that you plan to launch the new education and information notice in the early autumn. I especially welcome your emphasis on ensuring that this will be simple, but widely read. As I said when we met, our key focus is to ensure that all journalists understand the nature and scope of section 55 of the Data Protection Act. In the short term at least, this is a higher priority than detailed familiarity with other aspects of the legislation. Again, please let me know if you would like comment before the launch.

The proposed survey should help to build a fuller picture of journalistic awareness and future needs. I look forward to learning more about this in due course.

I am keeping 10 November free in my diary for the Newspaper Society conference in Bristol. I expect that will provide an opportunity for all of us to review where we have travelled over the last couple of years with this issue and to look forward to constructive relationships for the future.

Best wishes,



Richard Thomas
Information Commissioner