

Tim Toulmin

From: eve salomon [redacted]
Sent: 02 May 2007 18:14
To: Tim Toulmin
Subject: subterfuge and newsgathering

Tim,

I promised you some comments. Overall, I tend to agree with Paul that the tone should be more robust and less defensive. You will also recall a suggestion that we do some follow-up. I remain wary, as calling newspapers generally to account like that strikes me as entering into another level of regulation. Fine if the industry wants it, but we don't want to alienate everybody! If we do say something, my suggestion would be something like we will be contacting the industry again in 6 months to ask what changes they have made in the light of our report.

Some specifics:

- 1.6 I think the sentence that begins "The PCC judged" weakens things. I would delete everything after explaining why Coulson is no longer accountable and therefore wasn't asked.
- 1.7 We should add whatever Hinton said to Meyer.
- 1.10 I would delete all but the last sentence of this paragraph. It is a distraction to use this report as a means of waving a red flag at the Info Commissioner; we should be neutral, especially in the absence of any evidence one way or the other.
- 1.11 I suggest adding "clearly" in the public interest.
- 6.3 Shouldn't we have asked specific questions on this point, e.g. has the editor enquired as to the nature of other cash payments? We could look a bit weak on this, I fear if we are just relying on statements to this effect from Hinton.
- 10.5 You may want to add a recommendation for internal authorisations for significant cash payments (viz The Sun [I never thought I'd be applauding the Sun!])

Generally, - and I'm sure you've done this - the NOW should be encouraged to improve their internal controls. What they've done is strengthened their contractual obligations and increased training, but nothing about internal management controls.

And finally, I am a bit perturbed by their reliance on us for training. It sounds like a drain on resources, and surely they should be organising their own training by now!

All the best,

[redacted]

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