

Standard publishes front page apology to HRH the Duke of Edinburgh after PCC complaint

The London Evening Standard today publishes a prominent apology to HRH the Duke of Edinburgh following his complaint to the Press Complaints Commission on Wednesday this week. The paper has accepted that the allegation that he was suffering from prostate cancer was untrue. It has also apologised for breaching his privacy. The apology means that the matter has now been settled without the need to proceed to a formal ruling.

The front page of today's newspaper says: "The Evening Standard apologises to the Duke of Edinburgh". The full apology, which is published in an agreed position on page 5, says:

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh: Apology

In the Evening Standard of 6 August we stated that The Duke of Edinburgh had been diagnosed as suffering from cancer of the prostate. We now accept that the story was untrue and that he is not suffering from any such condition.

We unreservedly apologise both to him and to his family for making this distressing allegation and for breaching his privacy.

This complaint reveals the clear advantages of coming to the PCC with complaints of privacy intrusion. The process has been quick: the final settlement was negotiated less than 36 hours after the original complaint was made. In contrast with some legal actions, it has involved no further private details – which in this case would have related to Prince Philip's health – being released into the public domain. The apology has been prominent and proportionate. And the PCC costs nothing to use. The article under complaint has been removed from the newspaper's website and replaced with the text of the apology, which appears on the homepage and then will be archived permanently.

ENDS

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