

Governance Review

From: jamesdibley@fastmail.fm
Sent: 25 January 2010 16:49
To: Governance Review
Subject: Suggestions for 2010 PCC Governance Review

Suggestions follow:

1. THE APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

The terms of membership of the Appointments Commission should be set out in the Articles of Association. It is notable and discouraging that even the link in the PCC consultation paper purporting to offer more information about the Appointments Commission points at time of writing to a non-existent page.

2. PROMINENCE OF RETRACTIONS, APOLOGIES & CONTRACTIONS In print and in online media, placement of the above should be equally prominent to the original articles. This means: front-page retractions/apologies/contractions for front-page articles; permanent hyperlinked annotations to online editions of same articles under the byline. This also means that online media must include a browsable, searchable, dated index of Retractions, Apologies and Contractions in exactly the same way that other types of content are indexed and made browsable and searchable.

3. LOCATION OF RETRACTIONS, APOLOGIES AND CONTRACTIONS Online media should be required to establish and maintain permanent record of articles that have been subject to retraction, apology and contraction. This means: the retraction/apology/contraction must be visible in full or explicitly referenced at any and all publisher URLs where the offending content was originally made available.

4. HEADLINES AND HYPERLINK TITLES

Headlines and titles for links should be covered by the same rules as the rest of a story. Headlines and titles for links should not mislead in what they imply or offer and should always be substantiated by the article/contents.

5. CREDITING OF SOURCES

Sources should be credited. The only circumstances under which sources should not be credited are:

- (a) where the source does not wish to be credited
- (b) if the source requires anonymity / protection The source should be consulted on this before publication. If the source has not been consulted before publication there should be a clearly defined and well-recognised right of reply and complaint.

6. FURTHER PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The fourth estate and its capacity to be held accountable for its deeds and intents are of vital significance to British society. There are more fundamental issues that need to be recognised and addressed than the present consultation provides and a longer, better publicised and more interactive period of consultation is required.

I submit the points above without implying endorsement of the Press Complaints Commission, the Code or self-regulation in principle, today, Monday 25th January 2010.

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