

NEWS STAFF |

From: norman bartlett [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 April 2013 17:17  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Publicity Code consultation 2013

1. The Greater London Authority is missing from the list of local authorities and other bodies subject to the legislation. Is this an oversight? I can think of no reason why it should be excluded.
2. Lord Leveson made a series of recommendations that appear to be leading to some sort of legislation. That legislation, however it ends up, should not treat local authority publications less harshly than that being meted out to the rest of the press.
3. Any direction that the Secretary of State makes should be published in full in the offending local authority publication
4. It is very gratifying to see that the Dept says any interested party could take a local authority to court if it did not follow the SoS's direction. That is a very valuable requirement.
5. There are a number of London local authorities that have blithely ignored the Code, notably LB Tower Hamlets, LB Greenwich and LB Waltham Forest. In each case the local newspaper has been damaged. In the case of Waltham Forest, the well established and authoritative Walthamstow Guardian has suffered. I can recall as boy (in the late 1940s) seeing Guardian House on Forest Road standing directly opposite Walthamstow Town Hall as a watchful observer of the municipal shenanigans going on across the road. No more - it's business model destroyed by the deliberate activities of a hostile local authority.

Norman Bartlett  
journalist

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