

From: Matt Berkley  
Date: 25 May 2015 at 15:00  
Subject: Re: Red flag complaint? Widespread error on government commitments. CAS-3204842 and others  
To: Trust Editorial <TrustEditorial@bbc.co.uk>

Dear Ms Buckle,

The BBC's "MDG website" and other material notified to the Trust Unit understate key commitments by national leaders in the Millennium Declaration.

The situation is clearly exceptional, and appropriate for any discretionary powers of the Editorial Standards Committee or Trustees.

I do not believe any sane Trustee would think it appropriate for the Trust Unit not to give them a clear picture now.

If the BBC do not correct the public's impression in good time for the September 2015 summit, which realistically may mean before the summer holiday period, then BBC staff will have knowingly allowed a deception to persist for people who are, through no fault of their own, highly vulnerable.

If the Trust Unit has not passed and does not pass the newer complaints to the Executive, then it is withholding material information from its own journalists.

I have already notified the Trust Unit of a potential conflict of interest for the Editorial Complaints Unit.

It is not clear to me that, even though the "pledge" error is distinct from the ECU's own error in a published ruling about the "dollar a day", in the circumstances the ECU is free from risk of lack of independence in considering the "pledge" error.

Please confirm that you have told the Trustees and the Executive at an appropriate level - I previously mentioned the Chief Complaints Editor - of the allegations about the widespread error as I indicated, or rather, since it is so obvious that the "1990 baseline" in the 2000 declaration is non-existent - about the error.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Berkley.