

# BBC Trust discretionary powers in cases of serious and/or urgent editorial problems

Matt Berkley

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To: trust.editorial@bbc.co.uk

Dear Mr Towers and Ms O'Brien,

I have requested an editorial appeal today.

I expect by now you are familiar with the BBC's widespread error as to the content of the Millennium pledges.

You may know that **after the Editorial Standards Committee sent out a decision on 19 June stating that the child mortality pledge was more ambitious than the later Millennium Development Goal target, the World Service continued to confuse the pledges with the easier targets.**

I have complained to the BBC about material I found with this error.

It may already be clear that providing misleading information to citizens in poor countries - and rich countries - on government commitments is a serious matter, undermining democracy and, if uncorrected, journalistic integrity.

The same might apply to the provision of incorrect information about the factual basis of official statements about progress on poverty, or the evidence available to governments and others when claiming policy successes.

Among the complaints I associated with More or Less of 3 March 2012 in my correspondence on case 1300394, I complained that a fact-checking programme had misstated the baseline for a Millennium Declaration pledge. Perhaps it was not clear to members of the ESC that **world leaders reaffirmed this pledge in 2005 and 2013**, or that the consensus among Reuters, the Times of India, the Guardian, the Independent and the Economist in 2000 was that pledges other than on survival rates had a 2000 baseline.