

.....  
**Press Complaints Commission**

*From the Director*

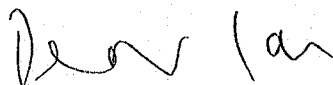
22 February 2006

Ian Beales OBE  
Secretary to the Code of Practice Committee  
PO Box 235  
Stonehouse  
GL10 3UF

*Chairman*  
Sir Christopher Meyer

*Members of the Commission*  
Matti Alderson  
Roger Alton  
Professor The Lord Chan  
Edmund Curran  
Paul Dacre  
Jane Ennis  
Mary Francis CBE  
Vivien Hepworth  
Peter Hill  
Paul Horrocks  
Adam Phillips  
Eve Salomon  
Dianne Thompson CBE  
Derek Tucker  
The Right Rev. John Waine KCVO  
Rear Admiral Nick Wilkinson CB

*Director*  
Tim Toulmin



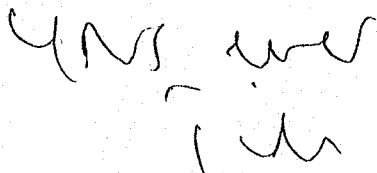
**Annual Code of Practice Review**

The Commission recently discussed the annual review of the Code of Practice. There were two comments from individual Commissioners which I undertook to pass on to the Committee for its consideration.

One member correctly said that those of us who take part in the Commission's Open Days around the country are struck by the number of times that the issue of suicide arises. It also crops up during our roundtable lunches that we have from time to time with interested parties. The concerns are about whether, in publishing excessive detail of the means by which someone has killed themselves, newspapers and magazines may in fact contribute to the likelihood of copycat suicides. Those who have raised it with us have pointed out to the research that has taken place into this subject – with which I believe the Committee is familiar – and to the fact that it is commonplace for voluntary Codes in other Western European countries to refer to the matter.

The other point was made by a Commissioner concerned to ensure that members of the public are aware that the Code extends to headlines. A proposed revision to Clause 1 (i) is to include the words 'and headlines' after the words 'including pictures'.

With kind regards.



Tim Toulmin

---

