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PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

From the Chairman

31 October 2007

Michael Wills MP
Minister for State
Ministry of Justice
Selborne House
54 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QW

Jean Minister,

House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution

Thank you for your letter of 18th October.

We have in the past issued guidance to the press on the separate, but linked, issue of not harassing judges to comment on their sentences – which, of course, they are not permitted to do. The issue you raise is also important. There was a recent discussion about it at a meeting of the Editors' Code of Practice Committee, which writes and reviews the rules that the Commission enforces. The view at the moment is that the Code as currently drafted should cover the type of situation that the Select Committee is concerned about. What we need now is for the PCC to receive a solid complaint under Clause 1 (Accuracy), so that we can articulate publicly where the boundaries lie in reporting this subject. Meantime, I can assure you that we will keep the matter under close review.

With kind regards.

*Yours sincerely,
Christopher Meyer*

Sir Christopher Meyer

CHAIRMAN
Sir Christopher Meyer

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