

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

From the Chairman

Our reference: 084515

Jonathan Grun Esq
Editor
The Press Association
292 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London SW1V 1AE

5th January 2008

Dear Jonathan,

I am writing in regard to the Commission's decision about the reporting of a suicide on the Crawley Observer website (which used material directly from the Press Association feed). I enclose a copy of that decision for your information.

As you know, the PCC must hold editors ultimately responsible for what appears in their papers and on their websites, which is why the complaint was upheld against the Crawley Observer website on this occasion.

The Commission welcomed your full response to the complaint, and the steps that you have taken in response to the issues raised in it. However, when newspapers use PA copy directly (without editing), the onus must fall on you to ensure that it is compliant with the Code when you send it out. I recognise that you do a lot of work to abide by the Code, but this case highlights the need for care in this area – particularly given the likelihood that PA copy will be responsible for more content, especially online, in future.

I have passed on your kind offer for PA representatives to meet those in the charities who contacted us. I think that this would be a very helpful step forward.

CHAIRMAN
Sir Christopher Meyer

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Tina Weaver
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Do get in touch, if you would like to talk this matter over.

With kind regards.

*Your ever,
Christopher*

Sir Christopher Meyer

Enc.

