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FROM THE EDITOR

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2003

Sir Christopher Meyer  
Chairman  
Press Complaints Commission  
1 Salisbury Square  
London  
EC4Y 8JB

B.  
I discussed this with her at an lunch Stelzer dinner a couple of weeks ago. Her penultimate para. is silly - I told her she would have got a letter even if broadsheets didn't exist. Another lunch for the New Year.

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Dear Christopher,

Thank you for your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> September. As you know The Sun is strongly committed to the Code of Practice – and opposed to any form of discrimination on health or any other grounds.

I have therefore taken the opportunity of this episode to reinforce among all my colleagues the importance both of Clause 13 of the Code and of the PCC's excellent guidelines on the portrayal of mental health in the media.

The sympathetic portrayal of mental health issues in all newspapers is a very important one, and I am a keen advocate of the Commission's proactive work in this area. The protection of the vulnerable – as you said in your speech a few weeks ago – must always be a high priority.

I shall ask Guy to ensure that mental health issues are highlighted when he is next undertaking training of our journalists on Code matters.

Finally, I hope you will not mind my adding one final thought about your letter. I consider you a constructive and interested critic of the newspaper industry and value your opinion; but the tone and style of a newspaper is a matter for an Editor. If the readers object (and a few certainly did in this case) they have the option of buying another newspaper to read.

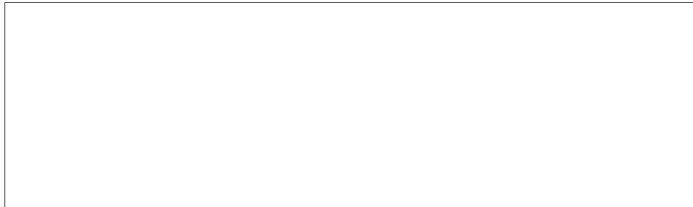
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We made a mistake, and whenever we do our rivals – in particular the BBC and some of the broadsheets – are ready to stir the pot. Respectfully, I think it would be a mistake to dance to their tune every time a tabloid slips up.

I would enjoy meeting soon for a chat.

Yours sincerely



Rebekah Wade