

From the Deputy Director

28 October 2003

Lorraine Homer
Directorate of Public Affairs
Metropolitan Police
Room 1302
New Scotland Yard
Broadway
London SW1H 0BG

Dear Ms Homer

Thank you for your letter of October 28th concerning the recommendations following the independent review into the Damilola Taylor murder inquiry.

Clearly the decision as to whether to enter into the sort of protocol that you suggest lies with the newspaper and magazine industry. The PCC does not represent the industry's interests. This is done by the Newspaper Society, the Newspaper Publishers' Association and the Periodical Publishers' Association. I should say that I think it is probably unlikely that the industry would want to have an arrangement with just one police force and it might therefore be something that would more easily be dealt with nationally, perhaps, as you say, by liaising with ACPO's Media Advisory Group.

The Code of Practice which is administered by the Commission is written by editors who sit on the Code of Practice Committee. I have sent the secretary of the committee a copy of your letter in case there is any scope for addressing the issue of rewards within the Code itself. The Code is due to be reviewed early next year so any potential amendments will be considered then. If you would like to make representations to the Committee then you should contact the secretary Ian Beales at PO Box 235, Stonehouse, GL10 3UF, or via e-mail on editorscode@fsmail.net.

Yours sincerely



Tim Toulmin