

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD WOOLF



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29 October 2004

Dr S Christopher

I am writing to thank you for the assistance which the Commission has provided in relation to my concerns about the reporting of the publication of the first draft guidelines by the Sentencing Guidelines Council.

I am particularly grateful for the help of your secretary, Mr. Toulmin. He responded admirably to Igor Judge's request for his assistance.

While I recognised that there was no prospect of obtaining a perfect solution, thanks to the help that the Commission provided, we did achieve an outcome which is as good as could be hoped for.

My concern was with the damage that reporting of this nature can cause to the public's confidence in the Justice system. I am therefore relieved that in the case of each newspaper which was guilty of misreporting, I have had at least a qualified admission that the reporting was inaccurate and an assurance that the misreporting will not be repeated.

I believe it was important to make clear that the Judiciary and myself, in particular, would not ignore inaccurate reporting of this nature.

With my thanks.

Reply:

Henry S. J.

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

I apologise for being so slow to reply to your letter of 29 October.

I am very pleased that Tim Toulmin was able to be of help in the matter of the sentencing guidelines.

Since then Tim and I have had a good conversation with Igor Judge,

which, I hope, he found as useful as did we. There are clearly things that can be done - both short and

larger term - which

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should lead to a better understanding by editors of the Judiciary. I am