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Press Complaints Commission

From the Chairman

15 November 2005

Kitty Ussher MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Chairman
Sir Christopher Meyer

Members of the Commission
Matti Alderson
Roger Alton
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Charles McGhee
Adam Phillips
Eve Salomon
Dianne Thompson
The Right Rev. John Waine KCVO
Rear Admiral Nick Wilkinson CB

Director
Tim Toulmin

Jean Ms. Ussher,

Thank you for your letter of 28th October.

I was interested to hear about your constituents' concerns about the use of the phrase 'Islamic terrorist'. That is not actually something that we seem to get many complaints about, although anyone could complain to us under the Code of Practice about it if they sent us a copy of the relevant article and an explanation of their concerns.

The Code covers areas such as accuracy and discrimination, although the discrimination clause is designed to protect named individuals from prejudicial or irrelevant comments about their race, colour, religion, sexual orientation and so on, rather than groups of people in general. I am enclosing a copy of the Code and our How to Complain leaflet in case you need to pass them on to anyone.

You might be interested to know that we are embarking on a nationwide consultation with Muslims in 2006, to hear their views about precisely this sort of thing and to explain a bit about what the Commission is and what it can achieve. If you have contact details of any groups in your constituency who might be interested in a visit from one of my colleagues, then please do let me know.

With kind regards.

Yours ever

Sir Christopher Meyer

