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Press Complaints Commission

*From the Chairman*

Adam Ingram MP Esq  
Minister of State, Defence  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

26<sup>th</sup> June 2003

*Jean Adams,*

I note with some interest your recent remarks on the subject of press intrusion in regard to the families of service personnel (Hansard June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Column 700). This is obviously a subject about which I am greatly concerned and I am pleased that you have raised it.

You suggested that, in past months, there were too many examples of the press stepping over lines of common decency, or failing to respect the feelings of those who have just lost loved ones. I have no doubt that you must be speaking about specific cases which have been brought to your attention. I would be most grateful if you could send them to me so we can take appropriate action.

On a more recent note, you may be interested to know that in response to the tragic events in Iraq in which service personnel have been killed and injured the PCC has been in contact with the Ministry of Defence to make clear the services it can offer to the families concerned. We have also been in touch with all national and relevant regional editors with a note on the importance of the Code and the need for caution in the difficult circumstances that inevitably follow such tragic incidents. I hope that you can agree that these are useful and important steps to take.

Finally, it is worth stating that PCC staff are always on hand to give further information about our services and will be happy to talk over any of these matters with all interested parties. We can be reached on 02073531248 during office hours and on 07699112200 in the event of an emergency at any time. We also have a comprehensive website: [www.pcc.org.uk](http://www.pcc.org.uk). I hope this information may be of use to you and more importantly to the people you have described.

If you wish to discuss any of these issues, do get in touch with us.

With best wishes.

*Yours ever,  
Christopher*

**Sir Christopher Meyer**

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