

Press Complaints Commission

From the Acting Director

3rd February 2004

Sir Louis Blom Cooper
The Press Wise Trust
38 Easton Business Centre
Felix Road
Bristol
BS5 0HE

Chairman
Sir Christopher Meyer

Members of the Commission

- Matt Alderson
- Roger Aiton
- Professor The Lord Chan
- Edmund Curran
- Paul Dacre
- Jane Ennis
- Mary Francis
- Dr. Arthur Hearnden
- Vivien Hepworth
- Peter Hill
- Paul Horrocks
- Charles McGhee
- Professor Robert Pinker
- Eve Salomon
- Dianne Thompson
- The Right Rev. John Wayne KCVO
- Acting Director*
Tim Toulmin

Dear Sir Louis,

Thank you for your letter of 27th January.

I am, of course, happy to pass on our correspondence on this subject to members of the Code Committee so that they may take it into consideration during their annual 'audit' of the Code.

I am pleased that you accept our sound reasons for requiring the authorisation of those at the centre of articles before investigating complaints on their behalf. You will note from my previous letter that it was in such a context that I indicated we would not be able to launch a 'full investigation' into the case of

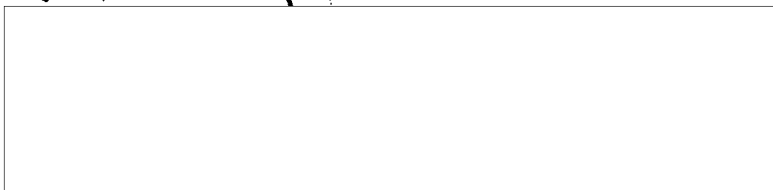
It may well be that a future complaint will enable the Commission to underline once again its position on the subject of the reporting of mental health. We are certainly ready to respond to concerns raised by individuals about particular articles with which they are connected. Indeed, our contact with Broadmoor hospital demonstrated our commitment to empowering patients to complain in this area. Nonetheless, I think that the publication of the guidance note – taken in conjunction with our case law – adequately spells out the position as it currently stands.

The more general issue you have raised remains an important one and will no doubt be considered by the Commission in months to come. I will ensure it is once again brought to the attention of Sir Christopher.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Tim Toulmin



cc Ian Beales, Secretary to the Code Committee

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