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Press Complaints Commission

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From the Director

Julie Hollyman,
Chief Executive,
Broadmoor Hospital,
C/o Trust Headquarters,
West London Mental Healthcare Trust,
Uxbridge Road,
Southall,
Middlesex,
UB1 3EU

12th February 2003

Dear Ms. Hollyman,

As you may know, the Press Complaints Commission has sought over the years to play a small part in initiatives to raise standards of reporting about mental illness in the media.

Much of this stemmed from the work of Ruth Runciman – who was a member of the Commission for three years – in educating editors, and Commissioners, about the issues involved. During that process, Ruth kindly arranged for me to come to Broadmoor with her, during which we met the Patients' Council, patients, doctors and nurses. I found it a very useful visit indeed.

Time flies, and that took place back in 1996. When I last spoke to Ruth before Christmas, we thought it would be extremely useful for me to pay a return visit seven years on – if you thought that appropriate – both to report back on what we have done to try to raise standards, and to hear views of how things have changed.

I obviously do not want to put anyone out, but if you thought a visit was a good idea, I would be very pleased to get my office to try to fix a date which was also convenient to Ruth. I am in the North West next week and will be visiting Ashworth: your perspective at some time in the spring or summer would be an added bonus to that.

With very kind regards.

John Mitchell
S. Alai