



Mr Tim Toulmin
Director
Press Complaints Commission
Halton House
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LONDON EC1N 2JD

September 12 2008

Dear *Tim*

Once again thank you very much for meeting with us and for your letter of 27th June. At your suggestion we have now met with Ian Beales, Code of Practice Committee.

This was very useful and as a result, and following consultation with our Trustees, we have made suggestions for consideration by the Code of Practice Committee (copy enclosed for your information).

As you recommended, we raised the possibility of producing guidance notes to editors specifically related to the sensitive reporting of suicide. However, Ian said that this was not a matter for the Code of Practice Committee...but for the PCC. Can you confirm that this is the case ?

We were pleased to hear and read about the very positive developments that have taken place in recent years to reduce the impact on those who are grieving and we congratulate everyone concerned.

You asked if we had further thoughts regarding the two new areas of concern we brought to your attention; namely a possible greater incidence of suicide in a) children and b) parents who murder their children before killing themselves. As you know we have only anecdotal evidence, but we are concerned that the copycat phenomenon may be relevant here.

As you will see from our letter to Ian Beales, if the Code of Practice Committee were to agree to our suggested change in the wording of the Code (supported by appropriate guidance notes) these areas of concern could be covered.

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Simon Hughes MP
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Founded by Parents for the **Prevention** of Young Suicide

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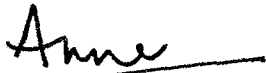
With reference to our discussion concerning adjudication on what is deemed to be 'excessive' detail, we believe that members of the PCC would benefit from expert advice when arbitrating on these matters. We suggested that this could take several forms: specific guidance notes, the availability of expert advice during an adjudication and/or a training / briefing session for members.

We would be very grateful if you would ask your Chairman, Sir Christopher Meyer, and members of the PCC to consider the points we have raised and we look forward to their response. We shall of course be more than happy to discuss any of these matters further.

Your proposal of a PCC-sponsored event about the reporting of suicide is excellent and we look forward to further news on this idea.

We value your offer of open communication and, once again, thank you for your interest and support in the vital need to reduce the number of young people who take their own lives.

Kind regards



Anne Parry
Chair, PAPHYRUS

Rosemary Vaux
PAPHYRUS Press Office

c.c. Ian Beales