

PCC upholds court reporting complaint; announces new Commissioner

1. Newspaper breaches Code with court report

The Press Complaints Commission has upheld a complaint against the Isle of Wight County Press, following a complaint about the reporting of a court case.

The complainant, Ms Leila Mahmoud, had been the subject of an assault by her friend's boyfriend, who had pleaded guilty to the offence at his trial. In mitigation, the man had said he was upset because he had discovered his girlfriend and her friend - the complainant - were having an affair. Ms Mahmoud complained that the subsequent article had effectively stated that she and her friend were lesbian lovers, in both the headline and opening paragraph, as if this had been established fact. Ms Mahmoud, and her friend, made clear that the claim was completely unfounded.

The Commission considered that the newspaper had failed to distinguish a claim in mitigation as such, in breach of Clause 1 (Accuracy) of the Code. It considered that readers may have been misled into believing that the claim had been accepted as established fact, when it was denied by the two women.

To read the full adjudication, click [here](#)

2. Magazine editor appointed to Commission

The Commission is pleased to announce that a new appointment has been made to its board. Lindsay Nicholson, Editorial Director of National Magazine Company, has been appointed to the Commission following the retirement from the Commission earlier this year of Jane Ennis, who was then editor of NOW magazine. Her appointment takes effect from 1st November 2007.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Stephen Abell on 020 7831 0022.

Notes

1. There are seven editors on the Commission, out of a total membership of 17. The other ten members have no connection with the industry other than by their membership of the PCC. There is always one magazine editor on the Commission, nominated by the Periodical Publishers Association (PPA).
2. Lindsay Nicholson studied astrophysics at university before beginning her career working in magazines. She is former editor of Prima and former Editor-in-Chief of Good Housekeeping magazine.
3. Editorial appointments to the PCC are nominated by the industry trade bodies but ratified by the Commission's independent Appointments Commission. For more information about the Appointments Commission, click [here](#)

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