

PCC upholds complaint over suicide reporting

The Press Complaints Commission has upheld a complaint against the Reading Chronicle for publishing an inquest report that contained excessive detail about a method of suicide. The article reported the death of a woman who had taken her own life by consuming poisonous leaves. It included the type of leaf used; how the deceased found out about it; the fact there was no antidote; and a reference to the speed of the process. The Commission felt that this information may have been sufficient to spell out to others how to carry out such a suicide. The complaint, which came from the parents of the deceased, was therefore upheld.

The Reading Chronicle has published the adjudication today. To read the text [click here](#)

This case follows a number of recent rulings by which the PCC has emphasised the importance of avoiding – especially in inquest reports – the publication of details that might unnecessarily inform readers of detailed methods of suicide. This included adjudications against several national newspapers earlier in the year [click here](#)

In March 2009, the Code of Practice Committee published guidance on the subject of suicide reporting, responding to the PCC's experience in this area [click here](#)

ENDS

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