

PCC upholds Closer complaint over distortions and fabricated quotes

The Press Complaints Commission has upheld a complaint against Closer magazine for a "serious" breach of the Code of Practice, after it published a distorted story about a young woman who had not known she was pregnant before giving birth.

The story focussed on the fact that the woman had drunk alcohol during her pregnancy but the Commission found that the magazine had "exaggerated a number of important points", especially about the drinking but also about the woman's recollection of her child's conception and how she felt about him when he was born. The magazine had also fabricated some of the direct quotes in the article. The effect of this, concluded the PCC, was to distort the story in breach of Clause 1 (Accuracy) of the Code.

Unfortunately, the breach was compounded by Closer's provision of inaccurate interview transcripts during the early stage of the Commission's investigation into this case. That in itself was a matter about which the Commission wished publicly to express concern.

To read the full adjudication, which was published this week in the magazine, please click [here](#)

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