

PCC co-hosts seminar on mental health reporting

The Press Complaints Commission has held the latest in its ongoing series of seminars to examine relevant matters of media ethics and practice.

Following successful events on the subject of suicide reporting and the impact of social networking on mainstream media, the PCC's most recent seminar concerned the reporting of mental health. Held last week at the King's Fund think tank, the event was co-hosted by the PCC and the Royal College of Psychiatrists and was organised in conjunction with Shift, the Department of Health anti-stigma project.

Senior representatives from newspapers, magazines and the mental health sector (including from charities and academic institutions) discussed key issues, including: the appropriate use of terminology; the connection (and perceived connection) between mental illness and criminal behaviour; and the potential role of the media - print and broadcast - in reducing stigma. The panel speakers included representatives from the PCC and the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and the discussion was chaired by Trisha Goddard.

In order to encourage free-flowing debate, the seminar was held under Chatham House rules.

ENDS

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