

**Beckham kidnap case - statement from, Sir Christopher Meyer**

The statement from the Crown Prosecution Service following the collapse of the Court case today obviously raises a number of significant issues relating to the administration of justice. It is reported that the case is being referred to the Attorney General and I will obviously wish to see what he has to say before making any substantive comment. I will, of course, also speak to the newspaper about all the issues involved.

The press Code of Practice has in place tough provisions on payments to both witnesses in criminal trials and to criminals themselves. Indeed, the rules on witness payments have in fact been considerably toughened since the News of the World broke this story. It is crucial that all publications adhere to these, and the PCC will certainly act in any case where a newspaper or magazine is found, after investigation, to have breached them.

**ENDS**

2 June 2003