

**PCC issues new guidance note on the judiciary and harassment**

Following a number of recent cases that have been brought to its attention, the PCC is today issuing a new guidance note on the issue of the judiciary and harassment.

The guidance - the full text of which is available on the PCC website by clicking [here](#) - relates to the convention that judges cannot comment outside a courtroom on any case over which they are presiding, or have presided, or discuss any decision they have made, or any sentence they have imposed. They are equally prohibited from commenting on or discussing the decisions of other judges. As a result of that, the Commission is highlighting to editors that, as there are no circumstances in which judges can speak to the press about such matters, approaches to judges, or members of their family, by reporters for comments about a judge's involvement in a case may lead to a breach of Clause 4 (Harassment) of the Code.

The Commission has issued a number of other guidance notes in the past on a range of subjects including the identification of lottery winners, reporting of mental health issues, financial journalism best practice, court reporting, the reporting of cases involving paedophiles, and the coverage of international sporting events. To view these, click [here](#).

**ENDS**

For further information, please contact Stephen Abell on 020 7353 1248.

7 August 2003