

PCC upholds complaint after local paper identifies alleged victims of sexual assault

The Press Complaints Commission (PCC) has today upheld an adjudication under Clause 11 (Victims of sexual assault) of the Editors' Code of Practice after a court report in the Aldershot News & Mail identified two women who were alleged victims of sexual assault. The newspaper immediately accepted that it was at fault, explaining that the inclusion of the women's names was due to human error. Nonetheless, the Commission had no hesitation in upholding the complaint, which had been made by Hampshire police on behalf of the women. It described the newspaper's error in this case as "appalling" and decided to refer the terms of its adjudication to the Chief Executive of Trinity Mirror, the publisher of the newspaper, so that action could be taken to prevent this ever happening in the future.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. The PCC is an independent body which administers the system of self-regulation for the press. It does so primarily by dealing with complaints, framed within the terms of the Editors' Code of Practice, about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines (and their websites, including editorial audio-visual material) and the conduct of journalists.
2. Clause 11 (Victims of sexual assault) of the Editors' Code states:
The press must not identify victims of sexual assault or publish material likely to contribute to such identification unless there is adequate justification and they are legally free to do so.
3. To read the adjudication, which has been published in today's edition of the newspaper, please [click here](#).
4. The adjudication was made last year but only published today due to associated legal proceedings.
5. For more information, please contact Jonathan Collett on 020 7438 1246 or 07740 896805.

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