From the Chairman

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PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

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> Brendan Barber Esq General Secretary TUC Congress House Great Russell Street London WC1B 3LS

> > 5<sup>th</sup> August 2008

lean Mr. Barber

Thank you for your letter of 31<sup>st</sup> July.

I can well understand the concerns you have raised on behalf of your members. But I do believe that the Code of Practice, as it is currently constituted, would enable the PCC to consider fully any complaints in this area that are brought to our attention.

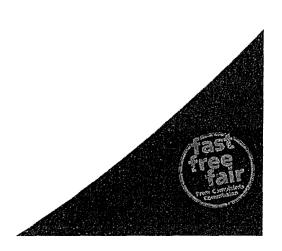
Clause 1 (Accuracy) requires editors to take care not to publish inaccurate or misleading information. This is even more important – and would be treated as such by the Commission – when the story relates to vulnerable members of society. Any incorrect claims in a newspaper or magazine about a person's welfare status would be taken very seriously. If you are aware of any examples, you should encourage the individuals concerned to get in touch.

I should also say that Clause 12 (Discrimination) specifically prohibits prejudicial, pejorative or irrelevant reference to an individual's physical or mental illness or disability. In my experience, it is extremely rare for publications to breach this clause, but clearly the Commission would judge any such reference to be unacceptable.

With kind regards.

Jour inverty Unitagher Meyer Sir Christopher Meyer

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