

November 30 1999.

To The Press Complaints Commission

Dear PCC

Following a telephone conversation yesterday with one of your advisors, I am making the (advised) complaint of harassment against three Sunday newspapers; The News of the World, Sunday People and Sunday Mirror.

On three occasions, June 26, November 11, and November 26 respectively, journalists came to my home and 'informed' me that I would be in that Sunday's paper - I could talk to them now to make it (inferred) easier for me. Nothing subsequently appeared but it has led to three anxious weekends. This, we believe is psychological harassment. I am certainly experiencing it as such.

I am refusing to talk to newspapers about my private life and could it be made clear that this 'ploy' constitutes harassment.

Thank you for your support and advice yesterday. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely

Jan Woo

Press Complaints Commission

Direct Fax No. 0171 353 9392

Our reference: 992283(News of the World), 992284(Sunday People) & 992285(Sunday Mirror)

30 November 1999

Mr Jan Woolfe



Chairman
The Rt Hon Lord Wakeham

Members of the Commission
Arzina Bhanji
Sir Brian Cubbon
Paul Dacre
Phil Hall
Alison Hastings
Dr. Arthur Hearnden
Dominic Lawson
Professor Robert Pinker
Dame Ruth Runciman
Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill
Malcolm Starbrook
The Lord Tordoff
Russell Twisk
The Right Rev John Waine
Guy Black

Dear Mr Woolfe

Thank you for your letter of 30 November 1999.

I enclose a copy of our booklet "How to Complain" and a copy of the newspaper and magazine publishing industry's Code of Practice. This sets out how the Press Complaints Commission deals with complaints. *Please read this carefully.* We hope you find it helpful.

The Commission will now assess whether the matters you have raised with us require investigation under the Code. If this appears to be the case we will ask the editors to deal with your complaint.

Our aim is to resolve all complaints amicably and quickly. It might be useful if I therefore set out a number of points about our procedures.

- As part of a full and fair investigation we must ensure that each party to a complaint is able to see and comment upon what the other has to say.
- We will usually send a copy of each letter of complaint to the editor even if the complaint does not raise a breach of the Code. It is important that editors are aware of criticisms of their publications.
- The Commission is not able to deal with all complaints. Some of the circumstances in which we may not be able to pursue a complaint are set out in the enclosed booklet.
- It is possible that the Commission may find that your complaint does not suggest any breach of the Code. If this is the case we will explain to you why the Commission took this decision.

The editor of the News of the World is currently a member of the Press Complaints Commission. However, as his newspaper is the subject of your complaint he will of course not take part in any discussion or consideration of the complaint by the Commission.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you need further advice. When you write to us, please quote our reference number on this letter.

Yours sincerely

Tonia Milton (Mrs)
tonia.milton@pcc.org.uk

Enc: How to Complain & Complainants' Charter

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Press Complaints Commission

Our reference: 992283 (News of the World), 992284 (Sunday People) and
992285 (Sunday Mirror)

1 December 1999

Mr Jan Woolf
4 Clevedon Close
Smalley Road
London N16 7LD

Chairman
The Rt Hon Lord Wakeham

Members of the Commission

Arzina Bhanji
Jim Cassidy
Sir Brian Cubbon
Paul Dacre
Phil Hall
Alison Hastings
Dr. Arthur Hearnden
Dominic Lawson
Professor Robert Pinker
Dame Ruth Runciman
Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill
Malcolm Starbrook
The Lord Tordoff
Russell Twisk
The Right Rev. John Waine

Director
Guy Black

Dear Mr Woolf

I will be dealing with your complaints against the News of the World, Sunday People and the Sunday Mirror before they go to the Commission for decisions under the Code and I will keep you informed of the progress of our investigation into these matters.

A copy of your letter has been sent to each newspaper and I shall write to you again once I have received their responses.

Yours sincerely

pp
Christopher Hayes
christopher.hayes@pcc.org.uk

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Press Complaints Commission

Our reference: 992283/4/5

3 December 1999

Ms Jan Woolf



Chairman
The Rt Hon Lord Wakeham

Members of the Commission
Arzina Bhanji
Jim Cassidy
Sir Brian Cubbon
Paul Dacre
Phil Hall
Alison Hastings
Dr. Arthur Hearnden
Dominic Lawson
Professor Robert Pinker
Dame Ruth Runciman
Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill
Malcolm Starbrook
The Lord Tordoff
Russell Twisk
The Right Rev. John Waine

Director
Guy Black

Dear Ms Woolf

Thank you for your fax of earlier today.

I am sorry that our previous letters were incorrectly addressed and I have consequently amended our database.

I will write again as soon as I have heard from the newspapers.

Yours sincerely



Christopher Hayes

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Press Complaints Commission

Our reference: 992285

6 December 1999

Ms Jan Woolf



Chairman
The Rt Hon Lord Wakeham

Members of the Commission
Arzina Bhanji
Jim Cassidy
Sir Brian Cubbon
Paul Dacre
Phil Hall
Alison Hastings
Dr. Arthur Hearnden
Dominic Lawson
Professor Robert Pinder
Dame Ruth Runciman
Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill
Malcolm Starbrook
The Lord Tordoff
Russell Twisk
The Right Rev. John Waine

Director
Guy Black

Dear Ms Woolf

Please find enclosed a copy of a response that I have received from the editor of the Sunday Mirror to your complaint.

Before we progress this matter I would be pleased to receive any further comments that you might like to add.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely



Christopher Hayes

Enc.: Sunday Mirror to PCC, 3 December 1999



By fax (0207 353 8355) and post

3 December 1999

Your ref: 992285

Christopher Hayes Esq
Press Complaints Commission
1 Salisbury Square
London EC4Y 8JB

Dear Mr Hayes

Ms Jan Woolf

I refer to your letter of 1 December 1999 together with Jan Woolf's complaint.

Ms Woolf complains that three Sunday newspapers have been harassing her.

Ms Woolf implies that on three occasions three separate journalists came to her home. The Sunday Mirror cannot possibly be responsible for the actions of other newspapers.

I can only speak for the Sunday Mirror and am confident that the Sunday Mirror did not harass Ms Woolf. One of our journalists, Nick Pisa, went to Ms Woolf's home on 26 November 1999 and knocked on the door. Mr Pisa said that he was from the Sunday Mirror and that he was investigating a story about Ken Livingstone. Ms Woolf said that she was "fed up" with newspapers coming to see her. Mr Pisa said that all he was looking for was a confirmation or a denial of the story. Ms Woolf then said she would not talk about her private life. Mr Pisa then thanked her and said goodbye and left. He was polite and courteous at all times.

Ms Woolf has made it clear that she does not wish to talk to the press. I am happy to respect those wishes. However, unless we are told in advance that the subject of a potential story does not wish to be disturbed at home, then the only time we are going to find out is when we approach them.

“Mirror Group”

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5AP

Switchboard: 0171-293 3000 / 0171-510 3000 Fax: 0171-293 3405 / 0171-510 3405 Telex: 27286 Cables: Mirror London E14

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The Mirror - Sunday Mirror - Sunday People - The Sporting Life - Radio Times - Weekender - North Record - Sunday Mail

MOD300014692

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Ms Woolf appears to believe that the Sunday newspapers are colluding against her in a "ploy" in order to inflict psychological harassment. I can understand her frustration to have three separate newspapers knock on her door. However, reporters have a duty to follow leads that they are given and will do so unless they are informed that they are not welcome.

The Sunday Mirror did not breach any provision of the PCC Code of Practice. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely



Colin Myler
Editor

7 December 1999

Press Complaints Commission

FAO Christopher Hayes

Ref; 992285

Dear Christopher Hayes

Thankyou for your letter of 6 December and the accompanying copy of the letter from the Sunday Mirror.

My comments are these;

Firstly I am appalled at the subtly' manipulative tone of this letter. I had not complained of harassing behaviour from journalists but of the harassment of the 'fact' conveyed; ie that ...'the Sunday paper was working right now on this story'. I quote directly from Nick Pisa. Nick Pisa was, as has been correctly pointed out by Colin Myler, polite and courteous – leaving as soon as I had said that I was not talking about my private life.

My second point. I had not mentioned any third party to you and I find it quite improper for Colin Myers to do so.

My complaint stands; that harassment has taken place. NOT in the actual behaviour of journalists but in being told of the fact of potential copy about one's private life. It is a ploy. It constitutes harassment of a more subtle kind and should be included and specified within your code of practice.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely

Jan Wood

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Press Complaints Commission

Our reference: 992283

15 December 1999

Ms Jan Woolf



Chairman
The Rt Hon Lord Wakeham

Members of the Commission
Arzina Bhanji
Sir Brian Cubbon
Paul Dacre
Phil Hall
Alison Hastings
Dr. Arthur Hearnden
Dominic Lawson
John McGurk
Professor Robert Pinker
Dame Ruth Runciman
Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill
Malcolm Starbrook
The Lord Tordoff
Russell Twisk
The Right Rev. John Waine

Director
Guy Black

Dear Ms Woolf

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter that I have received from the News of the World.

I shall write again once I have heard from the Sunday People.

Yours sincerely



Christopher Hayes

Enc: News of the World to PCC, 10 December 1999

NEWS OF THE WORLD

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST SELLING NEWSPAPER

FROM THE
EDITOR

1 VIRGINIA STREET
LONDON E1 9XR
TEL: 0171-782 1000
FAX: 0171-481 3384

992283

December 10th 1999

Mr. C. Hayes,
Press Complaints Commission,
1 Salisbury Square,
London EC4Y 8JB.



Dear Mr. Hayes,

Thank you for your recent letter. I can confirm that the News of the World did, indeed, approach Ms Woolf about a relationship she had with Ken Livingstone.

We approached her on two occasions and when she declined to cooperate we left her alone. I hardly feel that this constitutes harassment.

I hope this helps your enquiries.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature box]

PHILIP HALL

.....
Press Complaints Commission

Our reference: 992284

22 December 1999

Ms Jan Woolf



Chairman
The Rt Hon Lord Wakeham

Members of the Commission
Arzina Bhanji
Sir Brian Cubbon
Paul Dacre
Phil Hall
Alison Hastings
Dr. Arthur Hearnden
Dominic Lawson
John McGurk
Professor Robert Plinker
Dame Ruth Runciman
Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill
Malcolm Starbrook
The Lord Tordoff
Russell Twisk
The Right Rev. John Waine

Director
Guy Black

Dear Ms Woolf

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter that I have received from the Sunday People.

I look forward to hearing from you in the New Year and will put the complaints to the Commission for its decision.

Yours sincerely



Christopher Hayes

Enc: Sunday People to PCC, 22 December 1999

Reply Not the visit but big letter
you will be in next Sunday's paper

2 papers named Ken -
where is the alleged in the W of W
reply.

“Mirror Group”

FROM THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT

By fax (0207 353 8355) and post

22 December 1999

Your ref: 992284

Christopher Hayes Esq
Press Complaints Commission
1 Salisbury Square
London EC4Y 8JB

Dear Mr Hayes

Jan Woolf

Thank you for your letter of 1 December 1999, addressed to Neil Wallis, enclosing the complaint from Jan Woolf.

I am told that a reporter from the Sunday People visited Jan Woolf twice on one day - and visited again three or four weeks later.

I do not accept that paying three visits to somebody's property over a period of a month can be seen to amount to harassment, whether under the Code of Practice or otherwise.

I therefore do not believe that the complainant's letter raises any matter requiring investigation under the Code.

Yours sincerely



Marcus Partington
Solicitor

MGN Limited

21-12-99.DOC(CAS)

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5AP

Direct Line: 0171-293 3934 / 0171-293 3229 Fax: 0171-293 3613 Telex: 27286 Cables: Mirror London E14

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The Mirror · Sunday Mirror · Sunday People · Racing Post · The Sporting Life · Weekender · Daily Record · Sunday Mail

MOD300014698

Jan Woolf

2 January 2000

To Christopher Hayes
PCC

Dear Christopher Hayes

Re; ref 992284

Thankyou for your letters of 15 and 22 December 1999 with the attached replies from the News of the World and Sunday People. Like the earlier response of the Sunday Mirror, they have missed the point. My accusation of harassment was not to do with journalists' behaviour or frequency of visits but THE FACT THAT THEY TOLD ME I WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF THEIR COPY ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY.

Your advisor agreed with me that this constituted harassment and therefore broke the PCC code.

Apropos the News of the World response; they also mentioned a third party when I had not. The word 'alleged' is not there either.

Please address this with these newspapers. It would seem that a complaint to the PCC is 'punished' by further revelation by tabloid newspapers.

Please restore my confidence in you as a body representing the public.

Yours sincerely

Jan Woolf

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Press Complaints Commission

Our reference: 992284

5 January 2000

Ms Jan Woolf



Chairman
The Rt Hon Lord Wakeham

Members of the Commission

Arzina Bhanji
Sir Brian Cubbon
Paul Dacre
Phil Hall
Alison Hastings
Dr. Arthur Hearnden
Dominic Lawson
John McGurk
Professor Robert Pinker
Dame Ruth Runciman
Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill
Malcolm Starbrook
The Lord Tordoff
Russell Twisk
The Right Rev. John Waine

Director:
Guy Black

Dear Ms Woolf

Thank you for your letter of 2 January.

I shall now put your three complaints to the Commission for its decision as to whether there has been a possible breach of the Code and will write to you again in due course to notify you of the outcome.

Yours sincerely



Christopher Hayes

Nothing after this