

[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 01 April 2009 17:31  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] Legal  
**Subject:** Suicide reports  
**Attachments:** Reporting of Suicides 1 April 09.doc

[Redacted] would like the attached distributed as widely as [possible among reporters including our district reps.

Reporting of Suicides

[ ] has asked me to remind you all that it is imperative that the greatest possible care is taken with the reporting of all suicides.

Following the publication of a *telegraph.co.uk* article, and other similar media articles, reporting the suicide of a man who cut off his head with a chainsaw, The Press Complaints Commission has ruled that this was in breach of Clause 5 (ii) of the Code of Practice, which provides: "*When reporting suicide, care should be taken to avoid excessive detail about the method used*".

The clause is designed to prohibit the inclusion of such detail that might act as a blueprint for copycat suicides. In this case the Commission found that the article contained a long and graphic reference to the method of suicide including details of the precise apparatus used and the way it was assembled.

The Commission makes the point that inquest reports should be carefully edited to remove needless detail even if such detail has emerged during the course of proceedings held in public.

Please refer all future suicide reports to the legal department.