

.....
Press Complaints Commission

From the Chairman

Adam Ingram MP Esq
Minister of State, Defence
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

26th June 2003

Chairman
Sir Christopher Meyer

Members of the Commission
Matti Alderson
Roger Alton
Professor The Lord Chan
Edmund Curran
Paul Dacre
Jane Ennis
Mary Francis
Dr. Arthur Hearnden
Vivien Hepworth
Paul Horrocks
Professor Robert Pinker
David Pollington
Dianne Thompson
The Right Rev. John Weir KC
Neil Wallis

Director
Guy Black

Jean Adams,

I note with some interest your recent remarks on the subject of press intrusion in regard to the families of service personnel (Hansard June 23rd, Column 700). This is obviously a subject about which I am greatly concerned and I am pleased that you have raised it.

You suggested that, in past months, there were too many examples of the press stepping over lines of common decency, or failing to respect the feelings of those who have just lost loved ones. I have no doubt that you must be speaking about specific cases which have been brought to your attention. I would be most grateful if you could send them to me so we can take appropriate action.

On a more recent note, you may be interested to know that in response to the tragic events in Iraq in which service personnel have been killed and injured the PCC has been in contact with the Ministry of Defence to make clear the services it can offer to the families concerned. We have also been in touch with all national and relevant regional editors with a note on the importance of the Code and the need for caution in the difficult circumstances that inevitably follow such tragic incidents. I hope that you can agree that these are useful and important steps to take.

Finally, it is worth stating that PCC staff are always on hand to give further information about our services and will be happy to talk over any of these matters with all interested parties. We can be reached on 02073531248 during office hours and on 07699112200 in the event of an emergency at any time. We also have a comprehensive website: www.pcc.org.uk. I hope this information may be of use to you and more importantly to the people you have described.

If you wish to discuss any of these issues, do get in touch with us.

With best wishes.

*Yours ever,
Christopher*

Sir Christopher Meyer

1 Salisbury Square London EC4Y 8JB Telephone 020 7353 1248 Facsimile 020 7353 8355
Textphone for deaf and hard of hearing: 020 7583 2264
email: complaints@pcc.org.uk web site: www.pcc.org.uk