



From the Chairman

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

5th August 2008

Dear Mr. Barber,

Thank you for your letter of 31st 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.

*Your sincerely,
Christopher Meyer*

Sir Christopher Meyer

CHAIRMAN
Sir Christopher Meyer

MEMBERS OF THE
COMMISSION
Matti Alderson
Spencer Feeney
Colleen Harris MVO
Vivien Hepworth
Simon Irwin
Ian MacGregor
Ian Nichol
Lindsay Nicholson
Esther Robertson
Eve Salomon
Dianne Thompson CBE
Derek Tucker
The Right Rev
John Waine KCVO
Tina Weaver
Rear Admiral
Nick Wilkinson CB
Peter Wright

DIRECTOR
Tim Toulmin

