

THE RT HON THE LORD GOLDSMITH QC

Guy

Let's take this up:

*Please draft a reply,
which might enclose our
generic paper.*

Sir Christopher Meyer
Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission
1 Salisbury Square
London EC4Y 8JB

24 September 2003 *(C) 307/19*

Dear Sir Christopher

Firstly, may I congratulate you on your appointment and wish you well in your new post.

As you will appreciate, the functions of the PCC overlap to a certain extent with my functions as guardian of the public interest in relation to the administration of justice. The area of overlap between our functions, and the need for our Offices to liaise closely, was illustrated by the recent case of the payments by the News of the World to Mr Gashi in relation to the alleged conspiracy to kidnap Victoria Beckham. Payments to witnesses in criminal proceedings will always cause difficulties to the prosecution and is therefore a cause of concern to me. These difficulties are compounded if those involved in the payments are not frank with the police and prosecution from the outset.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this and other issues of mutual concern with you.

*Your sincerely
Peter Goldsmith*