

From the Deputy Director

04 December 2003

Andrew Biddlecombe Esq
Managing Director
Tandem Communications Group
55 West Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RU

Dear Mr Biddlecombe

Thank you for your letter of 28th November 2003 addressed to Sir Christopher Meyer, who has asked me to reply.

You seem to be advocating a change in the law which obviously would not be a matter for the PCC. But with regard to our current policy on corrections and apologies, I should say that we always take account of what the complainant wants and what would be a proportionate remedy to any breach of the Code. Indeed, failure on the part of the newspaper to correct something with due prominence could raise a further breach of the Code, so it is very unlikely that editors would try to avoid their responsibilities by placing corrections in obscure parts of the newspaper.

When resolutions to PCC complaints are not possible, critical adjudications are issued, and they work in much the way that you outlined in your letter. They are an embarrassment to the editor and advertise to readers, colleagues, rivals and bosses that he or she has broken the professional standards to which they state they adhere. It is a powerful sanction.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Commission.

Yours sincerely



Tim Toulmin