Press Complaints Commission

From the Chairman

5<sup>th</sup> December 2005

Mark Thomas Esq Editor The People 1 Canada Square Canary Wharf London E14 5AP Chairman Sir Christopher Meyer

Members of the Commission Matti Alderson Roger Alton Professor The Lord Chan Edmund Curran Paul Dacre Jane Ennis Mary Francis CBE Vivien Hepworth Peter Hill Paul Horrocks Charles McGhee Adam Phillips Eve Salomon Dianne Thomoson The Right Rev. John Waine KCVO Rear Admiral Nick Wilkinson CB

> Director Tim Toulmin

Near Mark,

I am writing to draw your attention to the Guidance Note on the reporting of *Patients* detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 that the PCC published some years ago. I enclose a copy of our note for your information.

I am doing so because an article has come to my attention, published on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2005 (a copy of which is enclosed), with the headline "Broadmoor nuts take over the asylum". You will see from our note that the Commission has previously made clear its concern that editors should avoid the use of such epithets as 'nuts' or 'nutters', which may in some circumstances raise a breach of Clause 12 (Discrimination) of the Code.

Although a complaint we received about the article (rather than specifically the headline) from Mr John Leather was considered to have been lodged too long after publication for the Commission to investigate, I wanted to write to you in order to remind you of our stated position, and in order that any problem may be avoided in future.

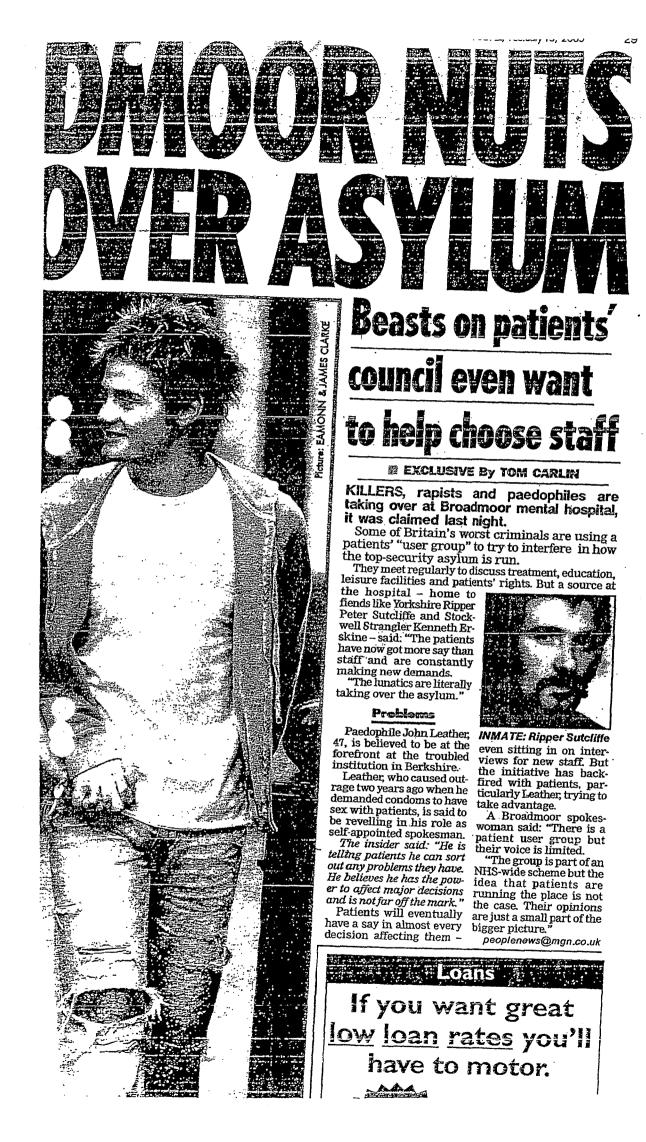
I would be grateful if you could write back to me to confirm your acceptance of the terms of the note.

With kind regards.

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212