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Press Complaints Commission

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From the Chairman

Dominic Cooper Esq
General Secretary
The Chartered Institute of Journalists
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Surrey Quays Road
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18th January 2006

Dear Mr. Cooper,

Thank you for your letter of 10th January about "citizen journalism" and newspapers.

I doubt that the matter calls for a formal investigation by the PCC. This new phenomenon does not affect our basics: The Editor's Code of Practice and the fact that editors must take responsibility for what they publish in their newspapers and magazines. With this in mind, it matters little whether the provenance, say, of a published photograph is a staff photographer, paparazzo or a passer-by who has a camera in his or her mobile phone. In each case the photo would fall under the Code and the editor be responsible for its publication.

Having said that, I do not deny that the rise of the citizen journalist may have consequences for the profession.

Yours sincerely,
Christopher Meyer

Sir Christopher Meyer

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