

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

From the Chairman

Robert Chesshyre Esq
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19th February 2007

Jean M. Chesshyre,

Thank you for your letter of 13th February.

The nub of the matter, in my personal opinion, lies in your first paragraph: namely, that the very agencies that should have an interest in upholding the integrity of the judicial system are too often themselves the source of these stories. Are we not asking too much of journalists not to write stories from official sources?

It is the job of the law offices and the judges to lay down clear guidance to reporters on what is and is not prejudicial. I am told that the Scottish courts manage to do this with a good deal more rigour and consistency than those of England and Wales.

It goes without saying that the PCC expects journalists to obey the Code of Practice and the law. But the PCC is not an arm of the state. Nor is it our job to interpret or to enforce the law. Our job is to enforce the Code.

These are my personal views. I would not want you to think that they anticipate formal discussion in the Code Committee.

*Yours sincerely,
Chris Meyer*

Sir Christopher Meyer

CHAIRMAN
Sir Christopher Meyer

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