



Mr Tim Toulmin  
Director  
Press Complaints Commission  
Halton House  
20/23 Holborn  
LONDON EC1N 2JD

September 12 2008

Dear *Tim*

Once again thank you very much for meeting with us and for your letter of 27<sup>th</sup> June. At your suggestion we have now met with Ian Beales, Code of Practice Committee.

This was very useful and as a result, and following consultation with our Trustees, we have made suggestions for consideration by the Code of Practice Committee (copy enclosed for your information).

As you recommended, we raised the possibility of producing guidance notes to editors specifically related to the sensitive reporting of suicide. However, Ian said that this was not a matter for the Code of Practice Committee...but for the PCC. Can you confirm that this is the case ?

We were pleased to hear and read about the very positive developments that have taken place in recent years to reduce the impact on those who are grieving and we congratulate everyone concerned.

You asked if we had further thoughts regarding the two new areas of concern we brought to your attention; namely a possible greater incidence of suicide in a) children and b) parents who murder their children before killing themselves. As you know we have only anecdotal evidence, but we are concerned that the copycat phenomenon may be relevant here.

As you will see from our letter to Ian Beales, if the Code of Practice Committee were to agree to our suggested change in the wording of the Code (supported by appropriate guidance notes) these areas of concern could be covered.

**Patrons:**

Rt Hon David Hanson MP  
Simon Hughes MP  
Rt Hon David Heathcoat-Amory MP

**Hon. Adviser:**

Prof Mark Williams  
University of Oxford

**HOPELineUK**  
**08000 68 41 41**

Lodge House  
Thompson Park  
Ormerod Road  
Burnley  
BB11 2RU  
**tel** 01282 432555  
**fax** 01282 432777  
**e-mail** admin@papyrus-uk.org  
**web** www.papyrus-uk.org

Registered charity no.1070896  
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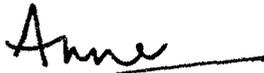
With reference to our discussion concerning adjudication on what is deemed to be 'excessive' detail, we believe that members of the PCC would benefit from expert advice when arbitrating on these matters. We suggested that this could take several forms: specific guidance notes, the availability of expert advice during an adjudication and/or a training / briefing session for members.

We would be very grateful if you would ask your Chairman, Sir Christopher Meyer, and members of the PCC to consider the points we have raised and we look forward to their response. We shall of course be more than happy to discuss any of these matters further.

Your proposal of a PCC-sponsored event about the reporting of suicide is excellent and we look forward to further news on this idea.

We value your offer of open communication and, once again, thank you for your interest and support in the vital need to reduce the number of young people who take their own lives.

Kind regards



Anne Parry  
Chair, PAPYRUS

Rosemary Vaux  
PAPYRUS Press Office

c.c. Ian Beales