

Breach of the Code moderated by speedy end to interview

The Press Complaints Commission has upheld a complaint against the Daily Post Wales after its journalist interviewed a fifteen-year-old girl about a road traffic accident in which one of her friends had been injured. There was no parental consent for the interview, which was on a subject involving both the girl's and another child's welfare. As a result, even though the exchange between the journalist and the girl had been very brief, Clause 6 (ii) of the Code of Practice had been breached. The Commission concluded, however, that the breach of the Code was "slight". It was arguable that the reporter should have noticed immediately that the girl (who had answered the door of her family's home) was wearing her school shirt and might, therefore, both be under 16 and know the victim of the road accident. But as soon as this occurred to him, he had ended what had, in any case, been a very short conversation. Moreover, nothing from the interview was published and so there was no public impact on the girl.

With the benefit of hindsight, it was clear that the journalist should have taken greater care in this case. Indeed, this complaint is a useful reminder to editors and journalists that a person's age can be an important fact to establish at the outset of an interview, given the protection offered by the Code to those of school age.

To see the full adjudication click [here](#)

ENDS

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