

PCC finds The Guardian in breach of Clause 17 on payments to criminals

The PCC is today publishing an adjudication following an investigation into a payment by The Guardian to a convicted criminal for a story about his time in prison with Jeffrey Archer. The Commission - using its powers to investigate matters on its own volition without having received a complaint - found that the newspaper had breached the Code. The Commission was concerned that the article contained no information of public interest and that the author of the piece had been "paid for an opportunistic piece based on the notoriety of Jeffrey Archer". Concluding that the newspaper's justification for making the payment was unconvincing, the Commission stated that "payments to criminals by newspapers on issues directly relating to their own crimes or stemming from them are only justifiable in circumstances where the right to freedom of expression guaranteed by Article 10 of the Convention on Human Rights is to be preferred on public interest grounds". To read the adjudication in full, [click here](#).

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ENDS

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