Royal College of Psychiatrists
Supplementary evidence to the Leveson Inquiry

The evidence below illustrates breaches of the following elements of the Editor's Code of Practice, which we do not regard as having been in the public interest:

1. Accuracy

i) The press must take care not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorted information, including pictures.
ii) A significant inaccuracy, misleading statement or distortion once recognised must be corrected, promptly and with due prominence, and – where appropriate – an apology published. In cases involving the Commission, prominence should be agreed with the PCC in advance.
iii) The press, whilst free to be partisan, must distinguish clearly between comment, conjecture and fact.
iv) A publication must report fairly and accurately the outcome of an action for defamation to which it has been a party, unless an agreed settlement states otherwise, or an agreed statement is published.

3.* Privacy

i) Everyone is entitled to respect for his or her private and family life, home, health and correspondence, including digital communications.
ii) Editors will be expected to justify intrusions into any individual's private life without consent. Account will be taken of the complainants own public disclosures of information.
iii) It is unacceptable to photograph individuals in private places without their consent.

Note: Private places are public or private property where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

4* Harassment

i) Journalists must not engage in intimidation, harassment or persistent pursuit.
ii) They must not persist in questioning, telephoning, pursuing or photographing individuals once asked to desist; nor remain on their property when asked to leave and must not follow them. If requested, they must identify themselves and whom they represent.
iii) Editors must ensure these principles are observed by those working for them and take care not to use non-compliant material from other sources.

8.* Hospitals

i) Journalists must identify themselves and obtain permission from a responsible executive before entering non-public areas of hospitals or similar institutions to pursue enquiries.
ii) The restrictions on intruding into privacy are particularly relevant to enquiries about individuals in hospitals or similar institutions.

**There may be exceptions where they can be demonstrated to be in the public interest.*

This evidence is to be read alongside the letter to Lord Justice Leveson from Professor Sue Bailey, President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, dated November 30, 2011.

From Dr Kevin Murray, Clinical Director of Broadmoor Hospital

A. Examples of intrusive press reporting about Broadmoor patients, visitors & staff

1. Reporter getting a job at Broadmoor in order to obtain clinical material about patients:

http://www.getreading.co.uk/news/s/2001718_security_breach_at_hospital

The same reporter David McGee had previously infiltrated the Prison Service.

He applied by email for a Health Care Assistant job on 15th April 2005. He finally started on April 4 2006. A 'tip off' telephone call identified him and he was suspended on April 9 2006. His article appeared in News of the World on May 14 and of course is now removed from the internet – we can provide a paper copy if needed.

2. Stories - particularly about Peter Coonan (previously Peter Sutcliffe) - copied from News of the World (NoW) website prior to its demise:

http://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=http://www.bernardomahoney.com/forthcb/pdt/yrarticles/images/n201.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.bernardomahoney.com/forthcb/pdt/yrarticles/roam.shtml&usg=__94J_a4vwTTJKOJ5vYufT5RjKWz4=&h=247&w=200&sz=11&hl=en&start=39&zoom=1&tbnid=wmyLt_4yXxPp-M:&tbnh=110&tbnw=89&ei=a7rOTsnxOIXLtAbd1bDFDA&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dyorkshire%2Bripper%2Bphotographs%26start%3D21%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DN%26gbv%3D2%26tbm%3Disch&itbs=1

These include:

- private letters which were sold and reproduced in the News of the World;
- secretly taped conversations which were then made available via the NoW website;
- a picture taken without authorisation within the visitors' centre at Broadmoor.

3. Articles about Peter Coonan's ex-wife, including pictures of her arriving at Broadmoor:

http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/1178676/Yorkshire-Ripper-Peter-Sutcliffe-Rippers-wife-is-back-at-his-side.html?print=yes

4. A long-lens photograph of another high-profile patient – which has had repercussions in terms of patients' willingness to go to outside areas:

http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/1178676/Yorkshire-Ripper-Peter-Sutcliffe-Rippers-wife-is-back-at-his-side.html?print=yes

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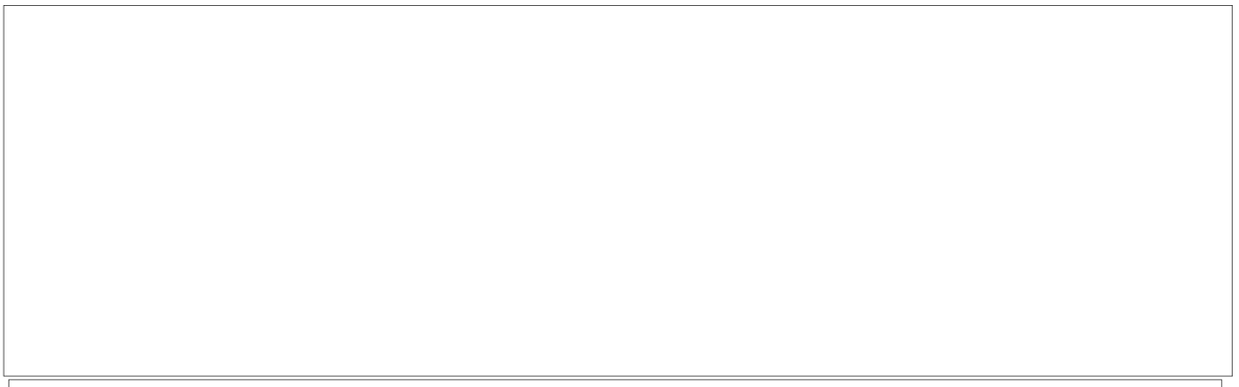
5. Critical comment about the Clinical Director at Broadmoor; a limited apology was eventually forthcoming after months of legal argument:

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-1254976/Utterly-insane--sly-calculating-Ripper-Peter-Sutcliffe-arrogant-doctors-backing-bid-freed.html



B. Complaints tagged with *Broadmoor*:

- West London Mental Health Trust v Daily Mirror Aug. 20, 2010
  The Daily Mirror amended an online article after a complaint that it should not have referred to a patient at Broadmoor Hospital as an 'inmate'.
- West London Mental Health Trust v Construction Enquirer July 22, 2010
  The Construction Enquirer amended an online headline after a complaint that it referred to Broadmoor Hospital as a prison.
- West London Mental Health Trust v Daily Mail July 22, 2010
  The Daily Mail amended an online headline after a complaint that it referred to Broadmoor Hospital as a prison.
- West London Mental Health Trust v News of the World June 29, 2010
  News of the World published a correction after its article about Peter Sutcliffe contained inaccuracies, as he had not applied for parole at any point.
- West London Mental Health Trust v The Sun June 3, 2010
  The Sun published a letter from the complainant after she complained that its report of a knife going missing at Broadmoor Hospital was inaccurate in its claims of a "lockdown."
- West London Mental Health Trust v The Citizen May 25, 2010
  The Citizen published a correction and apology after incorrectly calling Broadmoor Hospital a jail.
- West London Mental Health Trust v Daily Star on Sunday April 13, 2010
  The Daily Star on Sunday published a correction after it inaccurately referred to Broadmoor Hospital as a prison.
- West London Mental Health Trust v Daily Sport March 9, 2010
  The Daily Sport published an apology after a complaint about inaccuracies and discrimination in an article concerning the redevelopment of Broadmoor Hospital.
- West London Mental Health Trust v Daily Mail March 8, 2010
  The Daily Mail published a correction after incorrectly stating that Broadmoor hospital was a prison with padded cells, and that Ian Brady had spent time there.
- West London Mental Health Trust v News of the World Feb. 19, 2010
  News of the World published a clarification after a complaint that an article about the redevelopment of Broadmoor Hospital contained inaccuracies, as no plans have been finalised.
- West London Mental Health NHS Trust v The Sun Sept. 30, 2009
  The Sun resolves a inaccuracy and privacy complaint from the West London Mental Health NHS Trust over a story on Peter Sutcliffe by adding the hospital's comments to the online article
- Broadmoor Hospital v The Sun March 31, 2009
  Following a complaint by Broadmoor Hospital, regarding the publication of an identifiable photograph of a nurse, The Sun issued an apology and makes an ex-gratia payment to the nurse in question
- Broadmoor Hospital v Daily Mail March 31, 2009
  Daily Mail amended online version of article about Broadmoor hospital which had provoked a complaint from the hospital
- Mr Rory Hegarty v Sunday Sport March 31, 2009
  Following a complaint by Mr Rory Hegarty, Sunday Sport published an apology having inaccurately presented Broadmoor hospital as a prison

- Broadmoor v News of the World Sept. 30, 2008
  Following a complaint by Mr Rory Hegarty, News of the World publishes a correction of a number of inaccuracies that appeared in an article about Broadmoor
- Mr Rory Hegarty v Daily Sport Sept. 30, 2008
  Daily Sport published an apology and clarification following Mr Rory Hegarty's complaint about its presentation of Broadmoor Hospital
- Mr Rory Hegarty v Sunday Mirror March 31, 2008
  Sunday Mirror resolved Mr Rory Hegarty's complaint about its presentation of Broadmoor privately
- West London Mental Health NHS Trust v Western Daily Press March 31, 2008
  Western Daily Press notified its staff of West London Mental Health NHS Trust's complaint and publishes an apology
- Broadmoor v The People Sept. 30, 2007
  The People publishes a correction, following inaccurate coverage of Broadmoor, and amends its records in light of the complaint
- Mr Rory Hegarty v Daily Sport Sept. 30, 2007
  Daily Sport publishes a clarification, following Mr Rory Hegarty's complaint regarding the paper's representation of Broadmoor as a prison
- Mr Daniel Vuillamy v Hull Daily Mail April 30, 2007
  Hull Daily Mail published a clarification in response to Mr Daniel Vuillamy's complaint about its presentation of Broadmoor Secure Hospital
- Ms Nuala O'Brien v The Sun April 30, 2007
  The Sun published an apology, following Ms Nuala O'Brien complaint regarding the paper's representation of Broadmoor
- Ms Nuala O'Brien v Sunday Mirror Oct. 31, 2006
  Sunday Mirror defended its conduct in light of Ms Nuala O'Brien's complaint but agreed to remove the article under dispute from its website
- Mr John Leather v The Sun April 30, 2006
  The Sun defended its conduct in relation to Mr John Leather's complaint but agrees to annotate its records
- Mr David Copeland v News of the World July 31, 2004
  News of the World published a letter from a complainant, Mr David Copeland, clarifying comments which had been misrepresented in an earlier article

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From Dr Janet Parrott, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist and Chair of the Faculty of Forensic Psychiatry at the Royal College of Psychiatrists:

"When there is a Serious Untoward Incident psychiatrists have been hounded by the media. This is not necessarily related to the standard of care, which may have been meticulous. This has involved, both recently and for several years now, journalists intruding on psychiatrists and other members of the care team at their home addresses which the press has obtained. This results in extreme distress and also affects doctors' families. The general tenor of reporting is derogatory and misinformed about the expectations and powers of psychiatric services and commonly is personalised in a vindictive way. This also has an impact on other service users, often delaying their discharge.

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A common local issue for forensic services is that the press may whip up public fears, which may have limited substance but result in service users not being able to move on appropriately or to take leave. The public also unnecessarily bear these fears and it is difficult to balance this, as Trusts cannot give the correct information (only in general terms)."

From a Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist who wishes to remain anonymous

"I was singled out for opprobrium by virtually all papers, from the tabloids to the broadsheets. None of my colleagues from the Multi-Disciplinary Team were referred to or named.

On the day of the Homicide Inquiry publication I ended up being literally trapped in my own home. Journalists (mainly from the Daily Mail) had been knocking on my neighbours' doors asking if I lived there. They were lying in wait for me in parked cars outside my home, so that as soon as I arrived back from work they chased me down the drive of my house to my front door. They then proceeded to bang on the door, demanding an interview. There were photographers and journalists on the doorstep of my private home for days. All my three children were living at home at the time. My 15-year-old daughter who answered the door tried to tell them I was not there and asked them to leave. But they would not believe her and remained. It was extremely intimidating. I was made to feel as if I, not the patient, had committed the crime. I ended up sitting on the floor of rooms which looked out onto the street in case they tried to take photos of me through the window and eventually had to draw the curtains of all the rooms in the middle of the day, simply to protect our privacy.

However, in the days and weeks that followed, newspaper reports and articles continued to flow. The vilification was very distressing, but there was no right of appeal. ... The slurs on my professional reputation and judgement were never countered by anything which presented me as a committed NHS consultant who had worked in the field for over 20 years, who had a good reputation, who was generally respected and who had never before had a patient who had reoffended in a serious way let alone committed a homicide or suicide.

At least one newspaper gave out details of my parents. This was completely unwarranted, intrusive, irrelevant, and deeply distressing to them.

Eventually, several years later, a Court of Appeal judgement reaffirmed my professional reputation and described me as a respected and experienced clinician and also introduced the idea that some of the responsibility for what happened lay elsewhere.

However, none of this was reported in any of the papers.

Professional reputation is important for any health professional; however, it is particularly important in forensic psychiatry."

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