

PCC announces new adjudication on payments to criminals; information about media scrums; 2 new appointments

1. New adjudication on criminal payments

The PCC today publishes an adjudication against Closer magazine for paying the boyfriend of Louise Woodward for a photograph which was published alongside an interview with Ms Woodward on the subject of her rehabilitation and forthcoming legal career. Ms Woodward was not paid for the article itself, but as her boyfriend - the associate of a convicted criminal - was paid for specific material that did not serve the public interest, the Commission found a breach of the Code. To read the full adjudication, click [here](#).

To see the Commission's 2003 paper on the subject of payment to criminals click [here](#).

2. Protecting the public from media scrums

The PCC has now liaised with ITN, the BBC and Sky News over the issue of how members of the public might deal with unwanted media scrums. In future, the PCC will forward any concerns that complainants might have to the relevant broadcasters - who already have an effective and informal mechanism for responding to any problems that are raised directly with them. This will work in the interests of the public by ensuring that problems can be dealt with as a result of just one communication.

This follows a recommendation of the 2003 Select Committee report into Privacy and Media Intrusion that the PCC should engage with broadcasters 'to develop ways of tackling media scrums'.

3. Assistant Directors

Two new Assistant Directors of the PCC have been appointed with immediate effect. They are Stephen Abell and William Gore, who have worked at the PCC for three and four years respectively.

ENDS

For any further information, please contact Stephen Abell on 020 7353 1248

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