

## **Adjustment Guidelines from the Netherlands Press Council April 2008**

### **Under 2.2. ‘Sources’ three new articles:**

*2.2.6. The journalist only decides to publish (hyperlinks to) confidential reports, or parts thereof, if publication thereof has sufficient news value, if it serves a general interest and if it does not constitute a disproportional danger to persons.*

*2.2.7. The editorial office that refers to third-party information by means of a clearly indicated hyperlink is not automatically responsible for the contents of the underlying information. However, they always need to consider whether the interest served by including a hyperlink in the publication outweighs the interests that are potentially damaged as a result thereof.*

*2.2.8. The Internet, and search engines connected to it, has largely increased access to archive databases. In principle, public interest in reliable archives, which are as complete as possible and the contents of which cannot be changed, outweighs any individual interest in removing or anonymizing archived articles, the contents of which may be displeasing to this individual. This socially important principle may be deviated from for reasons of private interest, in exceptional cases only.*

### **Under 5. ‘Letters sent in and responses on websites’ two new articles:**

*5.4. The editorial office has a responsibility for responses by third parties that appear below articles on its website, but with a view to the nature of the Internet, the editorial office cannot be expected to check all these responses in advance. However, the editorial office can decide to remove previously placed responses.*

*5.5. If a response to an article on the website contains a serious accusation or a defamatory expression towards one or more known individuals, the editorial office, on the request of the person(s) involved, must investigate whether there are actual grounds for the accusation or allegation and, if this is not the case, remove the response.*

### **Change text under ‘Finally’:**

*‘The Guidelines from the Netherlands Press Council were adopted by its members in April 2007 and amended in April 2008.’*