

## **GOVERNANCE REVIEW WEBSITE**

**WWW.PCCGOVERNANCEREVIEW.ORG.UK**

This website contains details of the PCC's governance review which was announced in August 2009 by the PCC Chairman Baroness Buscombe. Anyone was able to make a submission to the governance review.

Information about the review and the members of the panel members can be found on this website, together with information about how to make a submission.

The report was published on 7 July 2010 and can be downloaded [here](#).

Please use the side menu on the left to navigate this site.



## **About the Governance Review:**

This section of the website houses information about the independent review of the PCC's governance, which was announced in August 2009.

The review group examined the operation of the PCC board, sub-committees and secretariat; how transparency in the system can be enhanced; whether the independent systems of accountability - the Charter Commissioner and Charter Compliance Panel - can be improved; and the PCC's Articles of Association.

Click [here](#) to read the consultation paper setting out the key issues for consideration.

The report was published on 7 July 2010 and can be downloaded [here](#).

## **Governance review - key issues for consideration**

In August 2009, Baroness Buscombe, Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, announced an independent review into the governance of the Press Complaints Commission. The aim of the initiative is:

"To review matters relating to the governance of the Press Complaints Commission, and to make recommendations in order further to build public confidence in the administration of independent press regulation in the UK."

It is expected that the review will last until the late spring of 2010. Members of the panel undertaking the review are:

- Vivien Hepworth, UK Executive Chairman of Grayling (Chairman of the Review Group); and former member of the Press Complaints Commission;
- Stephen Hadrill, Director General, Association of British Insurers (Chief Executive-designate of the Financial Reporting Council);
- Dr. Elizabeth Vallance, Chairman of the Institute of Education; Member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life; Member, PCC Appointments Commission.
- Eddie Young, former Group Legal Adviser of Associated Newspapers.

Written submissions are invited from members of the public and interested parties on key areas for consideration - which should not be seen as an exhaustive list - that are set out below. In addition, the panel will hold a series of evidence sessions in early 2010 to which relevant individuals and organisations will be invited.

### **Background and scope of the review**

The review takes place against the backdrop of the considerable technological and structural change in the newspaper and magazine industry that has taken place in recent years. The PCC Chairman - with the full support of the Press Standards Board of Finance (PressBoF) and the Appointments Commission - feels it is the right time to examine the Commission's governance to ensure it reflects public expectations and good practice in governance generally, and takes account of how media content is now produced and delivered.

It will not be concerned with reviewing those areas which are the sole responsibility of the Code Committee or PressBoF.

### **Areas under review**

The review will examine and consider the arguments for changes in the following areas. More information about all of these areas can be found at [www.pcc.org.uk](http://www.pcc.org.uk).

## 1. The PCC board

The PCC's Articles of Association describes the role of Commissioners as follows:

"The primary function of the Commission shall be to consider, and adjudicate, conciliate and resolve or settle by reference to the Press Code of Practice... complaints from the public of unjust or unfair treatment by newspapers, periodicals or magazines and of unwarranted infringements of privacy through material published in newspapers, periodicals or magazines (in each case excluding advertising by third parties) or in connection with the obtaining of such material but shall not consider complaints of any other nature.

"It shall also be the function of the Commission to consider and pronounce on issues relating to the Code of Practice which the Commission, in its absolute discretion, considers to be in the public interest."

### *Key areas for consideration*

- Does the board have a clear mission?
- Is the size and composition of the board appropriate?
- What sub-committee structure would best support the work of the board?
- What criteria should be used to evaluate the Commission's performance?
- How should the board exercise its supervision of the secretariat?
- Can the way in which it considers complaints be made more efficient?
- How should sub-committees be selected and chaired, what should they cover, and how should they communicate with the main board?

## 2. The Appointments Commission.

Details of the role of the Appointments Commission - and who sits on it - can be found [here](#).

It does not have a role in appointing the Chairman of the PCC, which is the responsibility of PressBoF.

### *Key issues for consideration*

- Should the terms of membership of the Appointments Commission be set out in the Articles of Association?
- Should the PCC Chairman also chair the Appointments Commission?
- Does the current appointments procedure for lay Commissioners and editors require any change?
- How should the Appointments Commission best assess the performance of serving Commissioners?

### **3. Transparency**

One of the current challenges is how to reconcile the confidentiality that the PCC owes to its complainants with its wish to be as transparent as possible.

#### *Key issues for consideration*

- Can more information be made public?
- How otherwise can the transparency of board meetings be improved?
- Can the PCC's confidentiality to complainants be reconciled with holding meetings, or part of meetings, in public?
- How else can transparency generally be improved?

### **4. Accountability**

Click [here](#) for information about how the PCC is currently accountable through the work of the Charter Commissioner. There is also a 'Charter Compliance Panel' which performs an audit function on complaints handling and publishes reports.

#### *Key issues for consideration*

- Should the roles of the Charter Commissioner and Charter Compliance Panel, whose responsibilities are set out in paragraphs 55 and 56 of the Articles of Association - be enhanced or expanded?
- What are the arguments for and against formalising a system of appeals?
- How else can accountability be improved?

### **5. Articles of Association**

The Articles of Association are the PCC's constitution. They set out the remit, duties and statutory responsibilities of the board of the Commission. Amendments to them may be made with the agreement both of the Press Complaints Commission board and the board of PressBoF. It is likely that following the governance review a number of changes to the Articles will be necessary. Additionally, the review may consider:

- Whether the Articles need specifically to take account of the changes to the Commission's remit since 1991 (notably the 2007 extension to include editorial audio-visual material on publications' websites);
- Any other suggestions from the boards of the PCC and PressBoF or any other interested party for amendments.

### **Conclusion**

Submissions covering all or some of these areas - or aspects of the PCC not mentioned in this consultation paper - may be made in writing by 25 January 2010 to:

Vivien Hepworth  
Chairman  
Independent Governance Review  
Press Complaints Commission  
Halton House  
20-23 Holborn  
London EC1N 2JD

Or by e-mail to [governancereview@pcc.org.uk](mailto:governancereview@pcc.org.uk)

Please include contact details in case the review team would like to speak to you further about your submission.

**Note: we will assume you are content for your submission to be made public unless you clearly state otherwise.**

**November 2009**

## Panel members



**Vivien Hepworth**  
*Chairman*

Vivien is the Executive Chairman of Grayling in the UK. She was a Public Member of the PCC from October 2001 until September 2009, when she stepped down in order to carry out this review. A former Chairman of Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Hospital Trust, she is also a Trustee of the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, Vice-Chairman of the College of St Barnabas and the founder and Hon President of the Nystagmus Network, a self-help group for those with certain rare visual impairments and their families.



**Stephen Hadrill**

Stephen is Chief Executive of the Financial Reporting Council. He was previously a senior civil servant at the Department of Trade and Industry.



**Dr. Elizabeth Vallance**

Elizabeth is a writer and academic, is Chairman of the Institute of Education, University of London, and a member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. She has recently joined the PCC's Appointments Commission - an independent body that makes appointments to the board of the Press Complaints Commission.



**Eddie Young**

Eddie is the former Group Legal Adviser of Associated Newspapers, and has over forty years' experience of the newspaper industry.

## How to make a submission

### Making a submission

Please note that the closing date for submissions was 25 January 2010. The Panel is not considering submissions received after this date.

Any interested party was able to make a submission to the governance review panel.

Alternatively submissions can be sent as a Word document attachment to [governancereview@pcc.org.uk](mailto:governancereview@pcc.org.uk) or by post to:

Vivien Hepworth  
Chairman  
Independent Governance Review  
Press Complaints Commission  
Halton House  
20-23 Holborn  
London EC1N 2JD

Please include contact details in case the review team would like to speak to you further about your submission. The closing date for submissions is **25 January 2010**.

**PLEASE NOTE: we will assume you are content for your submission to be made public unless you clearly state otherwise.**



## Press releases

07/07/10 - Independent report into PCC's governance published

13/11/09 - PCC governance review invites submissions

7/10/09 - Vallance, Hadrill and Young join Hepworth on governance review panel

6/8/09 - Buscombe announces independent PCC governance review

## Published Press releases

### Independent report into the PCC's governance published

An independent report into the Press Complaints Commission's governance has been published today. The independent review was initiated by the Chairman of the PCC, Baroness Buscombe and then carried out independently by an external team chaired by Vivien Hepworth.

The report is split into five key sections: clarity of purpose; effectiveness; independence; transparency; and accountability. The main recommendations made by the Panel are that there should be:

- A clearer role for the Commission;
- Tougher scrutiny rules;
- More industry engagement with the Commission;
- A stronger Board;
- A stronger lay voice on the content of the Editors' Code of Practice;
- Greater transparency about appointments;
- Greater openness about the system; and
- More rigorous examination of performance.

Vivien Hepworth, Chairman of the Governance Review, said:

“This review is the first such in the history of the PCC and has represented an invaluable opportunity to test the structures and processes that have evolved since the organisation's establishment in 1991. We have heard a very wide range of opinions, from the highly critical through to the strongly supportive. It is, of course, impossible for us to bridge the gap between some of these opinions; the challenge for the review was to see how the PCC and those it serves could benefit from improvements to its overall governance.

“We hope that the recommendations of the Review will plot the route for significant reform and improvement. The proposals we have put forward will give the PCC more clarity, independence and effectiveness and will ensure that it is transparent and accountable. It is now for the PCC and the industry to respond to, and implement, our findings.”

**ENDS**

Notes to editors:

1. The terms of reference for the Review can be accessed at <http://www.pccgovernancereview.org.uk/gr/consultation.html>
2. The website of the Governance Review is [www.pccgovernancereview.org.uk](http://www.pccgovernancereview.org.uk)

07/07/2010

## **PCC GOVERNANCE REVIEW INVITES SUBMISSIONS**

The independent review group looking into the PCC's governance arrangements has today issued a call for evidence. It has published a consultation paper - which is not intended as an exhaustive list of areas to be covered - outlining key issues for consideration.

The closing date for submissions is 25th January 2010. The review group will also be seeing a number of interested parties for face to face evidence sessions after that point.

To read the consultation paper, click [here](#).

For information about the review, click [here](#).

For more information, contact Stephen Abell on 020 7831 0022.

13/11/09

**EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE**

**07.10.09**

**Vallance, Haddrill and Young join Hepworth on governance review panel**

Vivien Hepworth, Chairman of the governance review looking into how the PCC operates, has announced the make up of the independent panel that will carry out the review. She said:

"I am very pleased to announce that Stephen Haddrill, Elizabeth Vallance, and Eddie Young have agreed to be part of this group. I wanted a team that would combine an insight into governance matters, knowledge of self-regulation, industry expertise, and some fresh thinking - and that is what this line-up delivers. Eddie, Elizabeth and Stephen all have outstanding track records in their own fields, and will help ensure that the review is a rigorous and innovative process."

Further details about the review - including how any interested party can contribute to it - will be announced shortly. It is expected that the review will take around 6 months to complete.

**Notes**

1. PCC Chairman Baroness Buscombe announced the review on 6th August 2009: <http://www.pcc.org.uk/news/index.html?article=NTg1MA==>
2. Vivien Hepworth is Executive Chairman of Grayling in the UK. She was a Public Member of the PCC from October 2001 until September 2009, when she stepped down in order to carry out this review. A former Chairman of Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Hospital Trust, she is also a Trustee of the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, Vice-Chairman of the College of St Barnabas and the founder and Hon President of the Nystagmus Network, a self-help group for those with certain rare visual impairments and their families.
3. Stephen Haddrill is Director General of the Association of British Insurers, and will shortly take up a post as Chief Executive of the Financial Reporting Council. He was previously a senior civil servant at the Department of Trade and Industry.
4. Dr. Elizabeth Vallance, a writer and academic, is Chairman of the Institute of Education, University of London, and a member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. She has recently joined the PCC's Appointments Commission - an independent body that makes appointments to the board of the Press Complaints Commission.
5. Eddie Young is the former Group Legal Adviser of Associated Newspapers, and has over forty years' experience of the newspaper industry.
6. For more information, contact Tim Toulmin on 020 7831 0022.

**Buscombe announces independent PCC governance review**

In her first major initiative since taking over as Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission in April 2009, Baroness Buscombe has announced plans for an independent review of the PCC's governance. The review group will examine the operation of the PCC board, sub-committees and secretariat; how transparency in the system can be enhanced; whether the independent systems of accountability – the Charter Commissioner and Charter Compliance Panel – can be improved; and the PCC's Articles of Association.

Announcing the move, Lady Buscombe said:

“I have been impressed by many aspects of the PCC's work since I took over as Chairman – not least, the extent to which it works hard behind the scenes to minimise intrusion and resolve complaints quickly and amicably. However, there has not been an independent review of the PCC's governance since it was created in 1991, and I think it is important periodically to reflect on the way an organisation works to make sure we have taken account of good practice elsewhere and wider public expectations. The review group will also want to consider the findings of the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport when it completes its report later this summer on press standards, privacy and libel.

“For all those reasons, I have asked Vivien Hepworth – who has experience of many different bodies in the public, private and NGO sectors as well as the PCC – to chair this review. She is stepping down before the end of her final term on the PCC board in order to undertake this review, and I have asked for her report in Spring 2010. Further appointments to the review group will be made shortly.”

Vivien Hepworth said: “I am honoured to have been asked by Peta Buscombe to chair this governance review. I am a strong believer in self-regulation of the press, but it must constantly adapt in order to prosper. It is the right time for a fresh and independent look at the areas this review will consider. In my view, this initiative underlines the PCC's flexibility – something that is one of the hallmarks and advantages of non-statutory regulation. I will step down from the board of the PCC before this review group starts work in the autumn”.

**ENDS**

1. Vivien Hepworth is Executive Chairman of Grayling in the UK and Brussels. She has been a Lay Member of the PCC since October 2001. A former Chairman of Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Hospital Trust, she is also a Trustee of the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, Vice-Chairman of the College of St Barnabas and the founder and Hon President of the Nystagmus Network, a self-help group for those with certain rare visual impairments and their families.
2. Three further appointments to the review group will be made, including another independent member and one with senior experience of the newspaper and magazine industry.
3. It will work for approximately six months, before making recommendations to the board of the PCC in spring 2010.
4. For more information, contact Tim Toulmin on 020 7831 0022.

6/8/09

## Received submissions

All submissions to the governance review panel appear below unless the individual or organisation who submitted the information requested otherwise.

Submission from Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom  
Submission from Jonathan Coad  
Submission from Brian Deer  
Submission from Jane Denny  
Submission from Margaret Gardener  
Submission from Frederick Gilling  
Supplementary information from Frederick Gilling  
Submission from Media Lawyers Association  
Submission from Media Standards Trust  
Submission from Mediawise  
Submission from Madeleine Moon MP  
Submission from NUJ  
Submission from Periodical Publishers Association  
Submission from Press Standards Board of Finance  
Submission from Peter Preston  
Submission from Society of Editors  
Submission from Trinity Mirror plc  
Submission from Rear Admiral Nick Wilkinson CB

The following submissions were received from individuals responding to an online petition:

Submission from Kevin Arscott  
Submission from Dave Beris Edwards  
Submission from Ash Berlin  
Submission from Greg Callus  
Submission from Anthony Clarke  
Submission from James Cole  
Submission from Iain Coleman  
Submission from Joe Costello  
Submission from Dave Cross  
Submission from James Dibley  
Submission from Chris Eccles  
Submission from Dr Richard Elwes  
Submission from Tim Fenton  
Submission from Paul Gadsby  
Submission from Miles Gould  
Submission from Tim Ireland  
Submission from Matt Jones  
Submission from Nigel Metheringham  
Submission from Amy Oliver  
Submission from Andreas Paterson  
Submission from Sim-O  
Submission from Stephen  
Submission from Rick Webber