

OB DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC MEMBER OF THE PCC

A public, or lay, member of the Press Complaints Commission is one of the 17-strong adjudicating panel that makes up the PCC. There are 7 editors and 10 public members on the Commission, ensuring that it is clearly independent of the newspaper industry.

The Commission's task is to consider complaints brought by members of the public under the 16-clause editors' Code of Practice, which covers issues such as accuracy, privacy and discrimination. Rulings are made either at full meetings of the Commission - which take place every 6 weeks or so - or considered in correspondence if there are clearly no issues to pursue under the Code. Such correspondence-based rulings are dealt with on a weekly basis.

In each case Commissioners are presented with a draft ruling which has been prepared by the case officer dealing with the complaint, based on their knowledge of the Code and PCC precedents. This recommendation is for the Commissioners to comment upon and a decision is not final until it has been endorsed by all members of the Commission. It is estimated that the workload for Commissioners is in the region of a minimum of an hour and half every week - although it can sometimes be more. In addition, Commission meetings last for about 2 hours every six weeks, although with travel to London they can consume an entire day for some members.

Commissioners are also presented weekly with details of complaints which either do not raise an issue under the Code or which have been resolved by the case officer following investigation. Commissioners may raise queries about any of these complaints with case officers at any time. Other papers are put to members of the Commission from time to time.

Members of the Commission are also company directors of the PCC, although their liability is limited to just 1. There are also sub-committees of lay members which consider financial matters, any Code changes and complaints handling. Lay members will usually sit on one of these committees each.

The post comes with remuneration of 11000 pounds per annum, paid monthly in arrears.

Applicants will need to demonstrate a record of achievement in their own walk of life, an interest in and appreciation of the dynamics of a free press, an acceptance of the principles of self regulation, and an ability to analyse and digest a large amount of written material. An understanding of the problems faced by those caught up in the media spotlight - in particular vulnerable groups of people - is important. The PCC is also committed to ensuring representation among the lay membership from the countries regions of the United Kingdom.

Applications must be submitted no later than **Friday 2nd May 2008** either by post to Jonathan Falcone, Press Complaints Commission, Halton House, 20/23 Holborn, London, EC1N 2JD or by e mail to appointments@pcc.org.uk. A full CV should be included, along with details of any relevant experience, as well as the name and address of two referees.

We are committed to equal opportunities and welcome applicants from all sections of the community. Click [here](#) to download the equal opportunities monitoring form you should complete and send with your letter of application.

ENDS

29 April 2008