

**PCC publishes ruling on share dealing allegations against The Mirror
Code was breached, rules the Commission, as it refers the adjudication to the publisher**

The PCC has today ruled on a number of allegations about possible breaches of Clause 14 (financial journalism) of the editors' Code of Practice by a number of senior staff at The Mirror.

The Commission has ruled that:

- There were numerous and flagrant breaches of the Code by Anil Bhojrul and James Hipwell during their time as City Slickers on the newspaper;
- The tipping of shares by Messrs Bhojrul and Hipwell to Deputy Editor Tina Weaver was one such breach of the Code, although the Commission did not make a finding against Ms Weaver herself;
- The purchase of shares in Wiggins Group and Viglen plc by editor Piers Morgan were breaches of the Code – in the case of the former share purchase only on a technicality – as both companies had been written about in the newspaper recently at the time of the purchase. The purchase of shares in Corporate Executive Search was not a breach of the Code;
- There was inadequate supervision of the City Slickers by the editor, whose responsibility it is to ensure that the Code is applied rigorously on the newspaper. This also raised a breach of the Code of Practice.

The Commission is pleased that Trinity Mirror has now revised its own internal procedures to ensure that such breaches of the Code cannot be repeated – which is an example of effective self regulation working in practice. In addition, the Commission has:

- Referred the terms of its adjudication to the Chief Executive of the company to register its concern about the events which were the subject of its investigation;
- Asked the industry's Code of Practice Committee to look at the terms of the Code in the light of this adjudication to see whether any revisions may be necessary.

ENDS

10 May 2000