

Statement by the Rt Hon Lord Wakeham regarding Enron

As Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission for the past seven years, I am only too aware of the damage can be done to individuals and institutions that are thrust into the public spotlight. Since the collapse of Enron, I have been unable to make any statement or undertake any interviews on the subject for legal reasons. I am conscious that some see this position as incompatible with the Chairmanship of the Commission.

I am very proud of everything we have achieved at the PCC and do not wish it to be damaged by continuing short-term speculation. I therefore see it as a matter of honour to stand aside temporarily from the Chairmanship of the Commission until the report of the Independent Investigating Committee of Enron is published and evaluated. I am co-operating actively with these enquiries.

I will not be making any further statement.

ENDS

31 January 2002