

Two new members for the Press Complaints Commission - including first editor from Northern Ireland to serve on the PCC

Professor Robert Pinker, Acting Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, today announced the appointment of one new lay member and one editorial member to the Press Complaints Commission.

The new lay member is Matti Alderson, former long-serving Director General of the Advertising Standards Authority, who brings to the PCC her strong background in consumer affairs. She is currently a member of the Better Regulation Task Force – chairing a report on Higher Education – and has until recently served on the Food Advisory Committee of the (then) Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The new editorial member – who takes over from retiring member Malcolm Starbrook – is the distinguished editor of the Belfast Telegraph, Edmund Curran. Mr Curran – a former President of the Society of Editors and long standing editor of the newspaper – is the first editor from Northern Ireland to serve on the Commission.

Professor Pinker said:

“I am delighted to welcome these two new members to the Commission. As someone with roots in Northern Ireland myself, it will be a great honour to have as distinguished editor from Northern Ireland as Ed Curran – the first from the Province – to serve with us. It will also be a pleasure from Matti Alderson, who brings a strong and important consumer background to our work. I look forward to working with them both to make our work even more effective. At the same time, I am sorry that we will be losing Malcolm Starbrook, who has served the PCC for three years. He has made a very substantial contribution to our work – and I know we will keep in touch in the future to ensure self-regulation, which works more than anything else in the interests of ordinary people, remains as vibrant as ever.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. Appointments to the Press Complaints Commission are made by an independent Appointments Commission, chaired by Professor Pinker. Its other members include Lord Mayhew of Twysden QC, David Clementi and Sir Harry Roche. This method of appointment is to ensure that lay members of the PCC – who are in the majority on the Commission – are themselves appointed by a body independent of the press.
2. There are sixteen members of the Commission. Nine members – including the Acting Chairman Professor Pinker – are lay Commissioners,, while seven are drawn from the ranks of senior editors in the national and regional press, and from periodicals. One position is currently vacant.
3. Edmund Curran – born and educated in Belfast – has been Editor of the Belfast Telegraph since 1993, having worked on the paper in different roles since 1996. He was also launch Editor of Sunday life, the Telegraph’s new sister paper, in 1998. In addition, he was seconded to Cardiff as Editor of Wales on Sunday and in 1992 was chosen as UK Regional Editor of the Year for his work with two Sunday papers. He was President of the Society of Editors in 2000-2001, and is currently a member of the Board.
4. Matti Alderson – born and educated in Scotland – was Director General of the Advertising Standards Authority from 1990 to 2000. From 1997 to 2002 she was a member of the Food Advisory Committee of (the then) MAFF; and has been a member of the Better Regulation

Task Force Payroll Review from 1999-2000. From 1998-2001 she was a member of the Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration Review Body.

5. For further information, please contact Guy Black on 020 7353 1248 (o) or 07659 138809 (pager) or by email on guy.black@pcc.org.uk.

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