

Two new public members of the PCC appointed

Sir Christopher Meyer, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, has announced the appointment of two new public members of the PCC.

Rear Admiral Nick Wilkinson, the Secretary of the Defence, Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee between 1999-2004, is to join the Commission on 1st July 2005 following the retirement of Dr Arthur Hearnden.

He will be followed on 1st July 2006 by Ian Nichol, an accountant and member of the Criminal Cases Review Commission, who has been appointed to fill the vacancy that will arise on the retirement of Bishop John Waine.

Announcing the appointments - which are made by an independent Appointments Commission following public advertisement throughout the country - Sir Christopher said: *"In Nick Wilkinson and Ian Nichol, the Appointments Commission has found two rigorously independent individuals who will bring a great deal of experience, and differing perspectives, to the Commission's work. I am confident that they will greatly contribute to the robust debates that we have over privacy and other matters, and look forward to working with them.*

At the same time, it is with sadness that we say goodbye to Arthur Hearnden, who has served the Commission so well for the last six years. He will be missed by his colleagues on the PCC, as well as by members of the Commission's full time staff".

ENDS

Notes:

1. Public, or 'lay', members of the Commission are appointed by an independent Appointments Commission, following public advertisement and interview. Members of the Appointments Commission are Sir Christopher Meyer (who chairs it); Lord Mayhew of Twysden; Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill; Sir David Clementi and Philip Graf CBE.
2. There are seventeen members of the Commission. Ten members - including the Chairman - are lay Commissioners who have no connection to the industry, while seven are drawn from among the ranks of senior editors in the national and regional press, and from periodicals.
3. The Defence, Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee (D-Notice Committee) is the self-regulatory body which oversees a Code which operates between those government departments responsible for national security, and the media. More information can be found at <http://www.dnotice.org.uk/index.htm>.
4. Rear Admiral Wilkinson is 64 years old, married with children, and lives in Wiltshire. Before his stint as D-Notice Secretary, he held a number of senior posts in the Royal Navy, including that of Principal of the Joint Service Defence College at Greenwich between 1994-1997.
5. Ian Nichol was a partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers between 1992-2001, and previously worked with a number of other accountancy firms. He is 50 years old, married with no children, and lives in Warwickshire.
6. For more information, contact Stephen Abell on 020 7353 1248.

23 June 2005