

New lay Commissioner appointed

Sir Christopher Meyer, Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, has announced the appointment of a new public member of the Commission following the sad death of Lord Chan in January.

Ian Nichol, an accountant and member of the Criminal Cases Review Commission, will join the PCC on March 1st as one of ten lay members. Mr Nichol had been scheduled to take up his post on July 1st this year, but the independent Appointments Commission, the body which makes appointments to the PCC, brought his appointment forward in light of the vacancy that arose so unexpectedly.

Paying tribute to Lord Chan, Sir Christopher said:

"Michael Chan's death was a profound shock to all his friends and colleagues at the Commission, and we have sent our deep sympathies to his family. We will miss the calmness, wisdom and great depth of experience that he brought to all our debates. He was also an active contributor to the Commission's work outside the boardroom, notably in helping to make the first of the PCC's Open Days – held in Manchester in 2003 – a success and a template for further events."

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); Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill; Sir David Clementi; Lord Phillips of Sudbury; and Tim Bowdler.
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. 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.
4. For more information, contact Stephen Abell on 020 7353 1248.

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