Major update for Codebook online

An expanded version of The Editors' Codebook, the handbook to the Code of Practice used by the PCC to adjudicate on complaints, is launched online today.

Please note that the Codebook is published by a separate organisation, the Editors' Code of Practice Committee, which operates independently of the PCC. We are including information about it here because it is a helpful resource for anyone interested in the Code of Practice. It may also be helpful for people making a complaint to the PCC.

The book, available at www.editorscode.org.uk, has been extended by 13 pages and updated to include:
- The new 2011 rule on publishing corrections;
- Summaries on key PCC cases from 2010, including covering funerals, photographing children, reporting police raids, blogging, and the use of discriminatory language;
- Briefing panels on Headlines and on Photo-journalism;
- Guidance on prior notification of people featured in stories;
- Advice on using material from social networking sites;
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the Code.

Ian Beales, secretary to the Code Committee, said: "The Codebook - like the Code itself - has to be a responsive, living document, constantly evolving in the light of PCC decisions, external developments and suggestions from civil society. This major revision is intended to reflect that. Our aim is that this should provide greater clarity for editors, journalists, and complainants alike."

PCC Director Stephen Abell said: "The Codebook is an invaluable resource for all those involved in the practice of press self-regulation. For editors and journalists, it provides practical guidance - based on years of PCC judgments - which can improve newsroom decisions. For complainants and their representatives, it can help them pursue their case more effectively. And for the PCC it acts as a living history of its work in raising industry standards."

To view the revised Codebook click here.

ENDS

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