

Baroness Buscombe announces end of term as Chairman of the PCC

Baroness Buscombe's three-year term of office comes to an end in the New Year. She has announced today her decision not to continue beyond that term to allow ample time for her successor to be found.

In the interim, she will continue her work of promoting industry reform, before handing over to a replacement after a candidate has been approved.

Baroness Buscombe will contribute to the Leveson Inquiry as an expert in the area of media regulation.

Baroness Buscombe said:

"I am very proud of my work at the PCC, which - from the very beginning - has been aimed at instigating the process of reform of the organisation. This included a Governance Review in the course of which I decided to make a number of internal improvements and the introduction of revised procedures in regard to the Editors' Code. This was always intended to be a springboard for further reform.

I am pleased that the Commission want me to continue in post until my successor has been appointed. Thereafter, I will be able to be a campaigner for change from outside the organisation. I wish to contribute to the Leveson inquiry and participate fully in the overall debate regarding reform, unfettered by my role as Chairman of the PCC.

I leave with three clear messages.

First, the public rightly demands stronger powers for dealing with the misconduct of the press. They must get them.

Second, the public needs the existing work of the PCC to continue and be built upon. I have worked as Chairman to ensure that we give real help (both before and after publication) to members of the public, who otherwise would have no-one to turn to. The staff of the PCC are unsurpassed in terms of the effort and intelligence they bring to their work.

And third, the importance of a free press has never been greater. It was thanks to investigative journalism that the phone hacking scandal was brought to public attention. Newspapers and magazines must have the proper freedom to represent their readers' interests, and also to expose wrongdoing wherever it may be found.

In this world of shifting media provision, I am convinced the answer to ethical concerns about the press is not statutory intervention. What is needed is a greater sense of accountability among editors and proprietors. A PCC with increased powers and reach remains the best way of achieving that."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. The PCC has responded to today's statement by Baroness Buscombe. To read this, please click [here](#).

2. The Press Complaints Commission is an independently-run body which enforces the terms of the Editors' Code of Practice. It has a Board of 17 members -10 members of the public (including the Chairman) and seven editors.

3. The Press Standards Board of Finance (PressBoF) is responsible for the appointment of a new Chairman, and will be putting in place a recruitment process straightaway. The post will be openly advertised and take place in line with the public appointments procedure, including independent assessment of the process and consultation with the Commission. The PressBoF Board comprises senior newspaper and magazine industry executives. It will be responding separately to Baroness Buscombe's statement.

4. For more information, please contact Catherine Speller on 020 7831 0022 or 07977 573 321.

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