

**THE PRESS STANDARDS BOARD OF FINANCE
EDITORS' CODE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

Embargo: For release on Thursday May 13 2004, 00.01 hrs.

EDITORS UNVEIL REVISED CODE OF PRACTICE

Changes to the voluntary code of standards overseen by the Press Complaints Commission are announced today by the Editors' Code of Practice Committee. After a comprehensive review, the committee - comprising senior editors from national and regional newspapers and magazines - has revised the Code to make it shorter and crisper while at the same time broadening its provisions in some areas, such as digital communications.

The revised rules take effect from June 1. Among the key changes, the Code:

- Re-emphasises that editors and publishers have the ultimate duty of care to implement the Code.
- Stresses that its rules apply to all editorial contributors, including non-journalists.
- Makes clear that it covers online versions of publications as well as printed copies.
- Insists that publications which are criticised in adverse adjudications should include a reference to the PCC in the headline.
- Extends the protection of private correspondence to include digital communications - prohibiting the interception of private or mobile telephone calls, messages or emails, unless in the public interest.
- Introduces a new rule to prevent payment to criminals for material which seeks to exploit, glorify or glamorise crime.
- Tightens the rules so that a newspaper which paid a criminal in the belief that it would elicit material in the public interest could not publish if no public interest emerged.

For further information contact: Editors' Code Committee secretary Ian Beales: 01453 860577.
(Mobile: 0771 577 0400).

.....
The Code of Practice Committee works under the aegis of the Press Standards Board of Finance Ltd., a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales No 2554323. The Code is ratified by the Press Complaints Commission, which is charged with enforcing it