

THE PRESS STANDARDS BOARD OF FINANCE LIMITED
Editors' Code of Practice Committee

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A fresh look at the Editors' Code

The Editors' Code of Practice Committee begins a comprehensive reappraisal of the Code in February - the first of a series of annual 'health checks' announced last year by Press Complaints Commission chairman Sir Christopher Meyer.

The aim is to ensure the Code remains valid and vibrant in the face of changing circumstances. In the spring, a handbook will be produced to support the Code, both explaining the reasoning behind the rules and drawing on the important PCC case law which has flowed from it.

The Committee is inviting suggestions from the industry and the public on how the Code might be improved or simplified. At the same time, the committee would appreciate any thoughts on particular areas of the Code where guidance in the handbook might be especially welcome.

Code committee chairman Les Hinton said: "This is the biggest single re-examination of the Code since the post-Diana review in 1997. We believe the Code has performed very well over those years, but it is important that it should be constantly reviewed to maintain its effectiveness in the face of constantly changing challenges. We urge both the industry and the public to join us in this exercise. It is the industry's code, but it is there to serve the public. All who believe in a robust and independent press have a mutual interest in its ultimate effectiveness and success."

Please send suggestions to:

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