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Cc: Ian Beales; Simon Fairclough; Santha Rasaiah

Subject: FW: News from Press Standards Board of Finance

You will see below the press release issued today announcing the extension of the PCC's remit to include editorial audio-visual material on newspaper and magazine websites.

I should say that the guidance note in its final form is different from the draft previously circulated to the extent that the final paragraph detailing procedures for dealing with complaints has been deleted. This decision was taken in light of comments made by PCC members to the Chairman and myself when we attended the recent meeting of the Commission. We took the view that arrangements for dealing with complaints were entirely a matter for the PCC and nothing to do with its remit.

Kind regards

Jim Raeburn
Secretary & Treasurer, PressBoF

THE PRESS STANDARDS BOARD OF FINANCE LIMITED

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EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE

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PCC's remit extended to include editorial audio-visual material on newspaper and magazine websites

The Press Standards Board of Finance Ltd (PressBoF) has announced that following industry-wide consultation it has agreed to extend the remit of the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) to include

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editorial audio-visual material on newspaper and magazine websites.

The extension has been agreed recognizing that “on-line versions” of newspapers and magazines have moved on from the internet replication of material that already existed in a printed version of the publication to routinely carrying material not available in print form.

The accompanying Guidance Note explains that the PCC’s remit should be seen as covering editorial material on newspaper and magazine titles websites where it meets two key requirements:

1. that the editor of the newspaper or magazine is responsible for it and could reasonably have been expected both to exercise editorial control over it and apply the terms of the Code.
2. that it was not pre-edited to conform to the on-line or off-line standards of another media regulatory body.

Tim Bowdler , Chairman of PressBoF, commented: “It is extremely important that self regulation should evolve in a carefully considered manner to take account of the developing ways in which our publications, in print and on-line, communicate with readers. The purpose of the Guidance Note is to provide clarity for all parties in defining the PCC’s remit in this new territory”.

Sir Christopher Meyer , Chairman of the PCC, added: “The range and quality of digital editorial material offered by newspapers and magazines have expanded at a dizzying pace over the last couple of years. These developments will only accelerate. What the industry has done in announcing this extension of the PCC’s remit is to underline its confidence in the system of common-sense regulation that we operate, and to demonstrate to the public that editorial information in the digital age – regardless of the format in which it is delivered – will be subject to high professional standards overseen by the Commission”.

Click [here](#) for the Guidance Note.

ENDS

Notes for editors

1. PressBoF is a committee of newspaper and magazine industry executives which is responsible for setting the remit of and funding the arrangements for press self-regulation in the United Kingdom.

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 – 7 editors and 10 members of the public (including the Chairman).

3. Press self-regulation is the norm throughout Europe, where the Codes of every existing press council and complaints commission (with the exception of Germany) also extend to online journalistic material, including audio-visual material.

4. For more information, please call Jim Raeburn (Secretary of PressBoF) on or Tim Toulmin (PCC Director) on