

Two regional editors appointed to Press Complaints Commission

Anthony Longden, Managing Editor of North & East London Newsquest titles, and Simon Reynolds, Editorial Director of the Lancashire Evening Post and Wigan Evening Post, have been appointed to the Press Complaints Commission. The appointments are effective immediately, and follow the retirement from the Commission of Spencer Feeney, editor of the South Wales Evening Post, and Simon Irwin, formerly editorial director of the Kent Messenger Group.

Longden and Reynolds were nominated for membership by the Newspaper Society, the trade body for the regional and local press. Of the 7 editors who sit on the PCC, 2 are always drawn from the regional press. Other editors are from the magazine, Scottish and national newspaper sectors. This ensures that the Commission's deliberations are always informed by a cross-section of senior industry experts, while the Commission's independence is guaranteed by the fact that a further 10 members - a clear majority - are representatives of the public.

Welcoming them to their new roles, Baroness Buscombe, Chairman of the PCC said:

"One of the great strengths of the PCC is the tremendous mix of people on its board. The majority of Commissioners have no connection with the press and come from all walks of life, but to ensure our work is as authoritative and relevant as possible it is essential for senior editors to be involved in our decision making. It is their working experience of the industry that brings a critical breadth of perspective to our deliberations. Simon and Anthony have both had long and successful careers in regional newspapers, and will be excellent PCC Commissioners. I am looking forward to working with them. At the same time, I would like to thank Simon Irwin and Spencer Feeney for their great contributions over the last few years, and for giving freely of their time to support the PCC's work".

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Notes:

1. There are 17 members of the PCC, ten of whom are independent of the press. There are 3 national newspaper editors, 2 regional editors, 1 magazine editor and 1 representative of the Scottish press on the Commission. Editorial members are nominated by their respective trade bodies but formally appointed by the Commission's independent Appointments Commission.
2. Current members of the Appointments Commission are Baroness Buscombe (who chairs it); Lord Evans of Temple Guiting CBE; Dr Elizabeth Vallance; Andrew Phillips (Lord Phillips of Sudbury); and Tim Bowdler CBE (Chairman of PressBoF).
3. Anthony Longden has worked as a reporter and editor at titles across the south-east of England. He is currently managing editor of North & East London, Newsquest, having been appointed to the post in December 2008. He is also a member of Newsquest's Editorial Development Group and has been a member of the Society of Editor's Legal & Parliamentary Committee since 1999.
4. Simon Reynolds has been editorial director of the Lancashire Evening Post and Wigan Evening Post for eight years. During his tenure the LEP has twice been voted Britain's leading community newspaper. Simon started his career in Cheshire and helped to launch the Daily Post's Cheshire edition in 1988. He was deputy editor of the Edinburgh Evening News, before returning south of the border in 2001.
5. For further information please contact Stephen Abell on 020 7831 0022.

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