

First public advertisement for PCC lay member

The PCC has, for the first time, publicly advertised for the position of a new lay Commissioner. This results from one of the initiatives announced earlier in the year by PCC Chairman Sir Christopher Meyer to strengthen the transparency and accountability of the PCC's procedures. As Sir Christopher announced in a speech to the Society of Editors on Sunday, applications - which must be received by 31st October - will be scrutinised by an independent panel of Sir Brian Cubbon and Sir Ronald Grierson, before a short list of candidates is interviewed by the PCC's independent Appointments Commission in December. For a job description and details of the application procedure, click here <http://www.pcc.org.uk/press/detail.asp?id=121>. Details of the Appointments Commission are on the PCC's website, and can be viewed here.

The text of the advertisement - which is being advertised in the national and regional press, in space generously donated by publishers - is as follows:

NEW PUBLIC MEMBER REQUIRED FOR PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

The Press Complaints Commission (PCC) is the self-regulatory body which deals each year with 3,000+ complaints from members of the public about the editorial content of British newspapers and magazines.

Applications are invited for a new public (or lay) member of the PCC. The appointment - which is made by an independent Appointments Commission - will commence from 1st January 2004, and will be for an initial term of three years.

Membership - which is remunerated, along with reimbursement of travelling expenses - involves nine or ten full Commission meetings in central London each year (usually on a Wednesday afternoon), and occasional ad hoc Committee work. In addition, Commission members receive papers for consideration and ratification by post each week.

Applicants will need to demonstrate a record of achievement in their own walk of life, an interest in and appreciation of the dynamics of a free press, an acceptance of the principles of self regulation, and an ability to analyse and digest a large amount of written material. An understanding of the problems faced by those caught up in the media spotlight - in particular vulnerable groups of people - is important. The PCC is also committed to ensuring representation among the lay membership from the countries and regions of the United Kingdom.

A job description is available on the PCC's website - www.pcc.org.uk. Applications must be made by Friday 31st October 2003; interviews of a shortlist of candidates are expected to take place in late November and early December. Full details of application procedure are contained in the job description. For those without access to the internet, a copy can be obtained from Kim Baxter, 1 Salisbury Square, London, EC4Y 8JB.

ENDS

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