PCC publishes new Guidance Note on Financial Journalism

EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE

The Press Complaints Commission is today publishing a revised Best Practice Note on Financial Journalism. The new note takes into consideration the Investment Recommendation (Media) Regulations 2005, which incorporate into UK law the EU Market Abuse Directive, and which contain rules for people who make investment recommendations. These regulations do not apply to newspapers and magazines that subscribe to the PCC, if they publish a reference to the Code of Practice when recommendations appear.

The Best Practice Note has now been amended to expand the guidance concerning journalists who make recommendations to buy, sell or hold shares. It underlines the relevance of Clause 1 (Accuracy) of the Code for journalists who make recommendations, or report on recommendations made by third parties.

If journalists have any significant financial interests in shares they are recommending, or if any conflicts of interest arise, the note also recommends that:

* the interests are publicly disclosed; and

* disclosures could take place on the newspaper's website, if there is a reference in the newspaper to where they can be found.

The broader guidance concerning internal disclosure on shareholdings about which journalists are writing remains the same.

The new Guidance Note - which is effective from July 1st 2005 - can be accessed here

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Notes

1. The new Guidance Note was ratified at a meeting of the Press Complaints Commission on 15th June 2005, following consultations within the newspaper and magazine industry.

2. The Note has been approved by the Editors' Code of Practice Committee - the separate body that is responsible for the content of the Code of Practice.

3. For more information, contact Tim Toulmin on 020 73531248 (o) or 07803 597372 (m).

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