

Colleen Harris to join Press Complaints Commission

Sir Christopher Meyer, Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, has announced the appointment of Colleen Harris, the Commission for Racial Equality's Director of Strategy and Communications, as a public member of the PCC. She will take up the post from 1st August 2006. Commenting on the appointment, Sir Christopher said:

"Colleen's varied and interesting career has ensured that she has great experience of the newspaper and magazine industry from a number of different perspectives. She will bring valuable insights to our work adjudicating complaints under the Code, and to how we can communicate the PCC's message to the public. I look forward to working with her".

Colleen Harris said:

"The PCC has a difficult job to do in deciding when an individual's right to privacy is trumped by the public's right to know, something that will be even more challenging in this age of digital communications. But I believe that, while not perfect, self-regulation has long been the only suitable way of promoting high editorial standards and achieving redress for intrusions and inaccuracies, while at the same time maintaining press freedom. I am looking forward to doing what I can to help build on the PCC's success".

The appointment was made by the PCC's Appointments Commission, which has also reappointed Bishop John Waine to the PCC until 1st August 2007.

ENDS

Notes for editors

1. Public, or 'lay', members of the Commission are appointed by an independent Appointments Commission, following public advertisement and interview. Members of the Appointments Commission are Sir Christopher Meyer (who chairs it); Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill; Sir David Clementi; Andrew Phillips and Tim Bowdler CBE.
2. There are seventeen members of the Commission. Ten members - including the Chairman - are lay Commissioners who have no connection to the industry, while seven are drawn from among the ranks of senior editors in the national and regional press, and from periodicals.
3. Colleen Harris MVO was appointed to the CRE in November 2003, before which she was the Press Secretary to HRH the Prince of Wales between 2000-2003. She previously worked for the Government Information Service. Her appointment is for an initial period of three years.

For more information, please call Stephen Abell on 020 7831 0022.

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