

The PCC has published its 2006 Annual Report.

The report reveals that the Commission successfully conciliated a record number of complaints in 2006 – up 20% year on year – and that it received more complaints about privacy than ever. The total number of complaints about UK newspapers and magazines and their websites fell slightly to 3325.

The report also details some of the pro-active work that the Commission undertakes that is often hidden from public view, such as its behind the scenes role during the Suffolk murders.

Stressing the sheer scale of the PCC's work, the Commission's Chairman, Sir Christopher Meyer, highlights the "flexible" and "mature" characteristics of the self-regulatory system administered by the PCC, and the "practical and common-sense results" it is able to deliver. These are particularly well-suited to content regulation in the digital age. The Commission's remit has been extended to include editorial audio-visual material on newspaper and magazine websites.

But Sir Christopher also expresses sympathy with those who feel that freedom of expression is increasingly under threat from a number of quarters. "The threat is real", he says. "If the trend continues, there will be inevitably further calls for the freedom of the press to be entrenched in a way similar to the First Amendment of the US constitution".

Sir Christopher also has a challenge for the press: to make the PCC more visible. He said that this was an issue he intended to be raising with the industry over the coming year.

To read the report click [here](#)

ENDS

Notes for editors:

1. The Press Complaints Commission is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines and their websites. There are seven industry representatives and ten members of the public on the Commission's board.
2. The PCC administers a Code of Practice which covers accuracy and privacy in reporting and contains numerous rules about how news may be gathered. Further information about the Code can be found [here](#).
3. The Code of Practice has applied to written words and still pictures on newspaper and magazine websites since 1997, and moving pictures and sound since January 2007.
4. Details of all the Commission's adjudications and resolved complaints can be found on its website – www.pcc.org.uk – which regularly breaks news about the outcome of complaints.
5. Hard copies of the Annual Report can be requested from catherine.speller@pcc.org.uk.
6. For more information, contact Stephen Abell on 020 7831 0022.

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