

EDITORS' CODE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

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PRESS INFORMATION:

Rusbridger and Benson join Code Committee

Two new members of the Editors' Code of Practice Committee, which reviews the voluntary code of standards overseen by the Press Complaints Commission, are named today.

Alan Rusbridger, editor of The Guardian, will join as a Newspaper Publishers Association nominee, while Neil Benson, editorial director of Trinity Mirror's regional newspapers and current President of the Society of Editors, has been nominated by the Newspaper Society. The nominations have been ratified by the PCC's Appointments Commission.

Code committee Chairman Les Hinton, Executive Chairman of News International, said: "The high calibre of the committee membership demonstrates the industry's continuing commitment to self-regulation. The Code is at the heart of the debate about press standards and Alan and Neil will bring valuable experience and authority to our deliberations. I am delighted to have them on board."

Neil Benson, elected President of the Society of Editors in October, replaces Gloucestershire Echo editor Anita Syvret, who stood down as an NS representative. Alan Rusbridger takes over as a national newspaper representative from Charles Moore, who resigned after giving up the editorship of the Daily Telegraph.

The existing Code committee members are: Les Hinton, chairman; Perry Austin-Clarke, Bradford Telegraph and Argus; James Bishop, Illustrated London News; Mike Gilson, The News, Portsmouth; Sue James, Woman & Home; Tom Loxley, Maxim; Douglas Melloy, Rotherham and South Yorkshire Advertiser; Ian Murray, Southern Evening Echo; Paul Potts, Press Association; Derek Tucker, Press and Journal, Aberdeen; Neil Wallis, News of the World; John Witherow, Sunday Times.

For further information contact: Editors' Code Committee secretary Ian Beales: 01453 860577. (Mobile: 0771 577 0400).

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The Code of Practice Committee works under the aegis of the Press Standards Board of Finance Ltd., a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales No 2554323. The Code is ratified by the Press Complaints Commission, which is charged with enforcing it