

THE PRESS STANDARDS BOARD OF FINANCE LIMITED

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Sir Christopher Meyer to stand down as Chairman of PCC

Sir Christopher Meyer and The Press Standards Board of Finance Ltd (PressBoF) have agreed that he will stand down as Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission at the end of March 2009 on completion of his second 3-year term.

Sir Christopher Meyer said: "I have found the challenge of strengthening the independence, effectiveness and credibility of self-regulation as stimulating and demanding as any job I did as a diplomat. Thanks to the dedication and professionalism of all at Halton House, the PCC has made a lot of progress in the last few years and today provides a service to record numbers of the public. But more remains to be done, especially in the digital age, and it is right that, after six years as Chairman, I should pass the baton to a successor. I came into this job convinced that self-regulation administered by an independent PCC was the only system of regulation compatible with a free press in a democratic society. I will leave the PCC reinforced in that belief."

Tim Bowdler, Chairman of PressBoF said: 'Since his appointment Christopher has made an immense contribution to self-regulation. Early on he brought forward his 'permanent evolution' proposals which included the appointment of the Charter Commissioner and the introduction of the Charter Compliance Panel to strengthen the service of the independent PCC to readers. Among other initiatives, he was a prime mover in bringing self-regulation of editorial audio-visual material on newspaper and magazine websites within the PCC's remit. Political and public confidence in the self regulatory system for newspapers and magazines is a tribute to the way Sir Christopher has led the PCC since his appointment.

We continue to be greatly indebted to Sir Christopher for his ongoing and outstanding leadership of the Commission and its staff.'

PressBoF will now put in hand arrangements to appoint a new Chairman of the PCC. The position will be advertised in due course.

Editors' Note:

PressBoF coordinates the newspaper and magazine publishing industry's actions on self-regulation. It comprises representatives of the Newspaper Publishers Association, the Newspaper Society, the Periodical Publishers Association, the Scottish Daily Newspaper Society and the Scottish Newspaper Publishers Association. PressBoF is responsible for funding the PCC and for the appointment of the PCC Chairman.

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