

THE PRESS STANDARD BOARD OF FINANCE LIMITED

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Baroness Buscombe appointed Chairman of Press Complaints Commission

The Press Standards Board of Finance Ltd (PressBoF), representing the newspaper and magazine publishing industry, announced today that Baroness Peta Buscombe, currently Chief Executive of the Advertising Association, will be the next Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission (PCC). She will succeed Sir Christopher Meyer when he stands down at the end of March 2009. In making the announcement Tim Bowdler, Chairman of PressBoF, said:

"I and my colleagues in the industry are delighted that Baroness Buscombe has accepted PressBoF's invitation to take up the position of Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. This follows a thorough selection process which identified a number of strong candidates. In our discussions, she made clear her strong belief in a free press and in a system of self-regulation recognised by the public as independent of the industry. She also demonstrated a good understanding of issues affecting the press including developments in multi-platform communications.

I have no doubt that Baroness Buscombe will prove a worthy successor to Sir Christopher Meyer to whom I must express our thanks for the substantial contribution he has made to the PCC and industry self-regulation since becoming Chairman in 2003."

Baroness Buscombe said "It is an enormous privilege to be asked to take up the Chairmanship of the PCC. I have always been a champion of self regulation which is vital to balance the freedom of the press with the rights of the public. This is a crucial time in the development of the PCC and I greatly look forward to the challenges ahead."

Sir Christopher Meyer commented that "Peta Buscombe is an excellent choice for the job which is as challenging as it is enjoyable. I have no doubt that she will be highly successful in further strengthening the effectiveness, independence and credibility of the PCC".

Biographical note:

Baroness Buscombe is presently Chief Executive and Director General of the Advertising Association. Trained as a barrister, she has had an extensive career in politics and the private sector. In 1998 she was made a Life Peer and has been a Conservative front bench spokesman in the House of Lords on several briefs including Trade and Industry, Social Security, Legal Affairs, Cabinet Office, Education and Skills, Home Office and Culture, Media and Sport.

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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