

## ADDITIONAL WITNESS STATEMENT

LORD BLACK OF BRENTWOOD,  
Chairman, Press Standards Board of Finance

1. I make this additional statement, in my capacity as Chairman of the Press Standards Board of Finance Limited, further to my statement of September 2011.
2. I do so to update the Inquiry on three matters contained in my original witness statement: the appointment of a new Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission; a change to the editors' Code of Practice; and details of a programme of work the industry is undertaking fundamentally to reform our system of self regulation.

### Appointment of the PCC Chairman

3. In paragraph 36 of my witness statement I set out the steps PressBof was taking to appoint a new PCC Chairman, in succession to Baroness Buscombe, in line with the recommendations set out in the PCC's Governance Review.
4. During the course of September Korn Ferry Whitehead Mann undertook due diligence on all the candidates who had applied for the position in response to an advertisement carried in the national press in August. They presented us with a "long list" of potential candidates - about 20 or so - which were discussed by a Sub Committee of the Board, with Andrew Ramsay, the independent assessor, in attendance. They gave us a full and frank assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate.
5. As a result of that meeting, a short list of six candidates was agreed for further briefing by Korn Ferry and then an interview. These interviews took

place on 30<sup>th</sup> September, again with Andrew Ramsay in attendance. The Sub Committee scrutinizing the candidates was unanimous in its recommendation of Lord Hunt of Wirral. This was reported to a full meeting of the Board on 4<sup>th</sup> October, which discussed the recommendation at some length and then ratified it. I informed Lord Hunt later that day, and agreement was reached about the terms of an announcement and a start date of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

6. An e mail from Andrew Ramsay with his observations on the process are set out in the Appendix to this statement.

#### Change to Code of Practice

7. Two changes have been made to the editors' Code of Practice following consultation with the industry and the PCC. They took effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

These changes are:

- **The Code's preamble** will require editors who breach the Code to publish the PCC's critical adjudication in full and with *due prominence agreed with the PCC's Director*.
- **The Public Interest** rules will require editors who claim a breach of the Code was in the public interest to show not only that they had good reason to believe the public interest would be served, but *how and with whom that was established at the time*.

8. The press release announcing these changes is included as Appendix 2 to this statement.

#### Reform of the self regulatory system

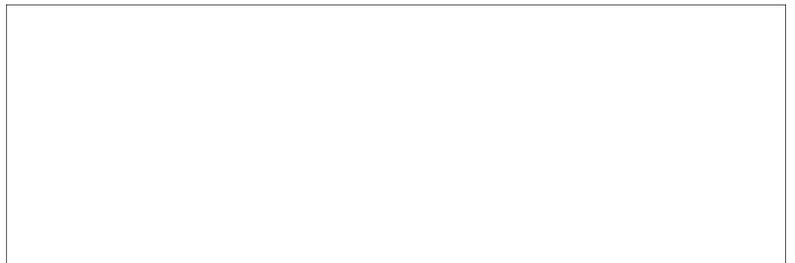
9. In paragraph 57 of my witness statement I made clear that PressBof is aware that the system of self regulation needed to be "renewed and

regenerated." Since then we have been working with Lord Hunt on proposals to discuss with the Inquiry.

10. A meeting to talk these through in outline with the industry's leaders was held at the offices of the Telegraph Media Group on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011. It concentrated on a number of key areas including the establishment of a standards and compliance body as part of a new regulatory mechanism, and the extent to which a new system could be underpinned through the use of civil law.

11. Since then, PressBof has been undertaking some detailed work with legal advisers about how this might work in practice. We are keen, with Lord Hunt, to discuss these ideas in more detail in the weeks and months ahead.

I believe the facts set out in this statement are true.



Lord Black of Brentwood

25<sup>th</sup> January 2012

## APPENDIX 1

**From:** Andrew Ramsay  
**Sent:** 25 October 2011 18:03  
**To:** Jim Raeburn  
**Subject:** PCC Chairman

Here is my sign-off note on the process of appointing the new PCC Chairman.

### CONCLUSION

My overall view is that PressBoF made a considered choice after a process that was fair to candidates. It was very well supported throughout by Korn Ferry.

### DETAIL

The process was very thorough, involving:

- advertising/search,
- appointment panel long-listing discussion,
- Korn Ferry interviews of long-listed candidates,
- appointment panel short-listing discussion,
- appointment panel interviews of short-listed candidates,
- decision making discussion by full PressBoF.

Although the time available was short (August and September), this did not prevent fair consideration of the candidates. Korn Ferry brought together a strong field, analysed them effectively against the criteria, and ensured the panel was well briefed at each stage. Panel members identified their knowledge of candidates as appropriate, and the Chairman reported on his contacts with candidates and potential candidates in the run-up to the interviews.

The short-list of individuals interviewed by the panel was very strong. The panel reached a well-argued and consistent view of their relative merits against what was required for the post, and on the preferred candidate. The deliberations of the panel were faithfully reported to PressBoF who gave them proper consideration before reaching a decision.

For the record, I was present for the discussions and panel interviews, and received the papers.

Andrew Ramsay

## APPENDIX 2

### PRESS INFORMATION

20 December 2011 For immediate release

### **Two changes to the Editors' Code**

Britain's newspaper and magazines have agreed to new rules to promote compliance with the Editors' Code of Practice, to which the British press subscribes voluntarily and which is enforced by the Press Complaints Commission.

The changes, announced by the Editors' Code Committee, mean that from 1 January, 2012:

- **The Code's preamble** will require editors who breach the Code to publish the PCC's critical adjudication in full and with *due prominence agreed with the PCC's Director*.
- **The Public Interest** rules will require editors who claim a breach of the Code was in the public interest to show not only that they had good reason to believe the public interest would be served, but *how and with whom that was established at the time*.

The changes have been agreed by the Code Committee following consultation within the industry and the PCC.

Code Committee Chairman Paul Dacre, Editor of the *Daily Mail* and Editor in Chief of Associated Newspapers, said: "These changes are designed to ensure that the normal good practice followed in most newspaper offices in most cases becomes enshrined in the Code itself, and in doing so explodes some popular fallacies about press self-regulation.

"Last year we introduced a rule requiring editors running corrections to agree prominence with the PCC in advance. This has helped to kill the myth that they are routinely buried in the paper. Now we have brought the publication of critical adjudications more into line with that. It should dispose of another misconception.

"The public interest amendment underwrites the need for editors and senior executives to give proper consideration before they consciously decide to breach the Code - something that should never be done lightly. They should be ready to demonstrate they have observed this process. Most do it already. This measure should be a safeguard, not a burden."