

Leveson Inquiry into the culture, practices and ethics of the press

Written statement of Philip Graf, Deputy Chairman of Ofcom

A. PHILIP GRAF CBE

1. Current role and career history

- 1.1 I am the Deputy Chairman of the Ofcom Board. I am also Chairman of the Ofcom Content Board.
- 1.2 I was appointed Deputy Chairman of Ofcom in November 2005 and commenced my role on 1 January 2006 for a fixed term of 3 years. I was subsequently reappointed for a second 3 year term. My second term will come to an end on 31 December 2011.
- 1.3 I chair Ofcom's Remuneration Committee and the Radio Licensing Committee. I am a member of the Risk and Audit and Nominations I am also currently an associate of Praesta Partners LLP, a trustee of Crisis, a charitable company associated with Crisis. I am Chairman of the Gambling Commission and Chairman Designate of the body to be created by merging the Gambling Commission and the National Lottery Commission. From November 2011, I will be chair of CFBT, an educational charity.
- 1.4 A Cambridge law graduate, I joined the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo in 1983, which became Trinity International Holdings in 1985. I subsequently became Chief Executive in 1993. I became Chief Executive of Trinity Mirror Group when the company merged with the Mirror Group in 1999 – a position which I held until February 2003. In 2003 I was asked by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to carry out a review of the BBC's online activities.
- 1.5 From 2003 to 2005, I was also Chairman of the Press Standards Board of Finance – the body which funds the Press Complaints Commission – and of the Broadband Stakeholder Group – the advisory group to the Government on the promotion of broadband services. I stood down from both roles upon taking up my appointment at Ofcom.
- 1.6 I received a CBE for services to regional newspapers in the Queen's birthday honours in 2003.

B. THE CONTENT BOARD

2. Introduction

- 2.1 I have read and agree with the written statements of Ed Richards and Colette Bowe. I set out some further information on Ofcom's Content Board below.

2.2 I have been Chairman of the Content Board since 2006. I will briefly outline the composition and role of the Content Board, before providing further details of its activities.

2.3 The Content Board is a committee of the main Ofcom Board. It is set up under section 12(1) of the Communications Act 2003 and has delegated and advisory responsibility for a wide range of content issues, predominantly dealing with broadcasting. It sets and enforces quality and standards for television and radio.

3. Membership and role

3.1 The Content Board has ten members, appointed by the Ofcom Board. It is chaired by a non-executive member of the main Board - currently me.

3.2 The majority of Content Board members are part-time, a number of whom have extensive broadcasting experience. Four are appointed to represent to Ofcom the interests and opinions of people living in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the English regions.

3.3 The Ofcom Board seeks advice and recommendations from the Content Board on any content-related aspects of decisions it has reserved for itself. All other content-related decisions are delegated to the Content Board. The Content Board reviews and inputs into all the broadcasting related issues undertaken by Ofcom as outlined Ed Richard's written statement, in particular in Sections B and D.

3.4 The Content Board serves as Ofcom's primary forum for the regulation of television and radio quality and standards. It is charged with understanding, analysing and championing the voices and interest of the viewer, the listener and citizen. The Content Board also plays a critical role in shaping Ofcom's approach to digital broadcasting and the growth of content delivery over digital networks.

3.5 It examines issues where the citizen interest extends beyond the consumer interest, with focus on those aspects of the public interest which competition and market forces do not reach.

4. Activities

4.1 Content Board members consider content issues in three categories:

- (a) **Tier 1** concerns negative content regulation. It covers matters principally concerning harm and offence, accuracy and impartiality, fairness and privacy.
- (b) **Tier 2** relates to quantitative matters, such as quotas for independent television production, regional production and original EU/UK production.
- (c) **Tier 3** covers the public service broadcasters; and in this context Ofcom has particular responsibility for ITV, Channel 4 and Five.

4.2 Members of the Content Board sit on the Radio Licensing Committee which issues licences for all radio stations in the UK and considers radio licence format request changes for radio. Members also assist the Ofcom executive in determining whether or not statutory sanctions should be considered, what type of sanction and the level of any financial penalty which should be imposed for breaches of the Broadcasting Code.