

Beyond Self-Regulation - a speech by Sir Christopher Meyer to the Society of Editors

EMBARGO WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH 12.00 pm

Sir Christopher Meyer, the Chairman of the PCC, is today giving a speech entitled "Beyond self-regulation" to members of the Society of Editors at Bridewell Hall in London. He will cover a number of important issues concerning the state of the PCC and the regulation of the press. In his speech, Sir Christopher:

- Questions whether the term 'self-regulation' is any longer adequate to describe the form of regulation overseen by the Commission, given its independent nature. The PCC is, he argues, 'the creature that broke free from its creators';
- Highlights 10 key reasons why the PCC is a proactive organisation – pointing to, among other things, its issuing of Guidance Notes and monitoring of compliance with them; its role in training young journalists to ensure knowledge of the Code from an early stage; its links with police and coroners' courts to make certain that vulnerable people are well aware of the Code and the Commission before a problem is even apparent; and its role in preventing formal complaints from arising by advising editors and members of the public about the Code in advance of publication;
- Asserts that the PCC in 2005 is 'more visible, more independent and more transparent than ever before', largely as a result of the successful implementation of an 8-point reform programme which was outlined in 2003. Key to this have been two new layers of scrutiny: the independent Charter Commissioner and Charter Compliance Panel which started work at the beginning of 2004.
- Points to new challenges for the industry and the PCC. These include improving further the visibility of the Commission; the need for editors to take particular care over the accuracy of headlines; and the importance of apologies and PCC adjudications appearing as prominently as possible.

To read a full copy of the speech [click here](#)

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For further information please contact Stephen Abell on 020 7831 0022

9 March 2005