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Code Committee members:
Paul Dacre, Daily Mail (Chairman);
Damian Bates, Press and Journal,
Aberdeen; Neil Benson, Trinity
Mirror Regional Newspapers; Lisa
Burrow, Closer magazine; Colin
Grant, Iliffe News and Media East;
Geordie Greig, Mail On Sunday;
Jonathan Grun, Press Association;
Ian Murray, Southern Evening Echo;
Mike Sassi, Staffordshire Sentinel
News and Media; Hannah Walker,
South London Press; Harriet Wilson,
Conde-Nast Publications; and John
Witherow, Sunday Times

PRESS INFORMATION

For immediate release on 14 December 2012

Response to the Leveson Report

The Editors' Code of Practice Committee today announces a series of initiatives to respond to the recommendations of the Leveson Report and to ensure high standards of journalism in a fast-changing media world. This follows a Special Meeting of the Code Committee held on December 5.

1. The Code's definition of the public interest will be revised with urgency, in light of the Leveson Report, to take into account the definition of the public interest published by the Director of Public Prosecutions in his recent Guidelines for Prosecutors.
2. The Committee also agreed to take up Lord Justice Leveson's recommendation to appoint lay members. The Committee at present comprises 13 editors, plus the Chairman and Director of the Press Complaints Commission as observers. In future it is proposed the number of editors will be reduced by three, to 10, with five lay individuals – including the Chairman and Director of the new regulator - joining the Committee as full members.
3. The Committee proposes to add a new Compliance Clause to the Editors' Code. Under this clause all editors must offer readers a clear and effective means of making complaints, and publish corrections and apologies promptly, preferably without recourse to the new Regulator. In cases where it is not possible to reach agreement by negotiation, the clause will make it clear that editors will have to publish adjudications, and approved corrections and apologies, in positions required by the Regulator.
4. The Committee will also, as recommended by Lord Justice Leveson, undertake a review of the Code. It will invite suggestions from the public and, for the first time, newspapers and magazines will be encouraged to urge their own readers to contribute. At the same time the Committee will review the Editors' Codebook to ensure - in the light of the Leveson Report - it gives editors and journalists the best possible guidance on good practice.

Announcing the proposed changes, Code Committee Chairman Paul Dacre said today: 'Lord Justice Leveson recognised in his report that the Editors' Code was praised by witnesses to his Inquiry. He also recommended improvements - and the Committee is determined to meet this challenge as promptly and positively as possible.'

Note for Editors

Suggestions for revisions to the Editors' Code should be sent by Friday, February 17, 2013 to The Secretary, Editors' Code Committee, PO Box 235, Stonehouse GL10 3UF ianbeales@mac.com.