

The Press Standards
Board of Finance Ltd

Editors' Code of Practice Committee

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Code Committee members:
Paul Dacre, Daily Mail (Chairman);
Damian Bates, Evening Express,
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Mirror Regional Newspapers; Kisa
Burrow, Closer magazine; Colin
Grant, Iliffe News and Media East;
Geordie Greig, Evening Standard;
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; Richard
Wallace, Daily Mirror; and John
Witherow, Sunday Times

PRESS INFORMATION

For release on 20 December 2011

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."

The Society of Editors is printing 40,000 wallet-size copies of the new Code, which will be distributed throughout the industry and to politicians and civil society early in the New Year.

[To view the amended Code in 1-page A4 format click here.](#)

For further information contact Ian Beales (see details left)