

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of
The Press Complaints Commission Limited held at
Halton House, 20/23 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD on
Tuesday 26 July 2011

Present: Baroness Buscombe Chairman

John Home Robertson
Anthony Longden
Ian MacGregor
John McLellan
Ian Nichol Deputy Chairman
Lindsay Nicholson
Esther Robertson
Jeremy Roberts QC
Simon Sapper
Michael Smyth
Julie Spence
Ian Walden
Tina Weaver
Peter Wright

In attendance: Stephen Abell Director

The lay members met first as a Committee, without editorial Commissioners, to discuss the future evolution of the PCC. The Commission then met in full to discuss the agenda.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Michael Grade and Simon Reynolds.

2. Update of the current position and review of the last three weeks

Commissioners discussed recent events, stemming from the phone hacking scandal.

3. The Leveson Inquiry

Commissioners discussed how best to seek to engage with the Leveson inquiry. It agreed to establish a standing committee of Commissioners to frame the response. This was to be chaired by Michael Smyth.

4. Strategy for regulatory reform

The Commission agreed that reform fell into the following five areas: Independence; Powers; Remit; Funding; Membership.

It agreed that reform would be led by the Standing Committee, but all decisions would be taken by the PCC as a whole.

5. Future remit and work of the Phone Hacking Review Committee

It was agreed that one major area of work (as previously discussed) was to establish current practices across the industry with regard to the access of personal information. This would lead to the establishment of a protocol of best practice. It had already been discussed by the Chairman and Director of the PCC with proprietors.

The Director undertook to write to editors and publishers with a series of questions on behalf of the Committee.

6. Any other business

Baroness Buscombe announced her intention to stand down as Chairman. After discussion, it was agreed that this should be announced shortly to enable a successor to be found in time for the Leveson inquiry.