The Press Standards Board of Finance Ltd

Editors' Code of Practice Committee

Chairman Paul Dacre

Secretary lan Beales PO Box 235, Stonehouse, GL10 3UF

Tel: 01453 860577 Mobile: 0771 577 0400 Email<u>: ianbeales@mac.com</u>

www.editorscode.org.uk

Code Committee members:

Paul Dacre, Daily Mail (Chairman): Damian Bates, Press and Journal, Aberdeen: Neil Benson, Trinity Mirror Regional Newspapers: Lisa Burrow, Closer magazine; 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, The Times

PRESS INFORMATION

For immediate release on 14 February 2013

Code Review deadline extended

The deadline for a comprehensive review of the Code of Practice followed by the UK press is to be extended to allow more time for the public to suggest possible changes.

The Editors' Code of Practice Committee, which writes and reviews the Code, launched the review in December, following a recommendation in Lord Justice Leveson's Report. Now, the February deadline for public submissions is being extended by two months, until **17 April**.

The committee will be significantly restructured ahead of the review to strengthen lay membership in line with Leveson's proposals. Three new public members will join the lay Chairman and Director of the new press regulatory body, making five in total. Three editorial places will go, leaving ten editors and five lay members. The lay members will be appointed once an independent recognition process for the press regulatory system as a whole is approved.

Code Committee Secretary Ian Beales said: "We've had feedback that some individuals and bodies wishing to contribute to the post-Leveson review would welcome more time, and we are responding accordingly. The initial process of appointing new lay members who will be crucial to the review - will inevitably take some time, so we are making very good use of that time."

The committee will consider suggested amendments or additions to any of the current 16 clauses, which cover issues ranging from accuracy, privacy, harassment and protection of children to payments to criminals or witnesses, and financial journalism.

To simplify the submission process, from next week it will be possible to make suggestions directly via the committee's website, <u>www.editorscode.org.uk</u>, which also explains the current Code and gives a history of previous amendments. Submissions by post should be sent to:

Editors' Code Review, PO Box 235, Stonehouse, GL10 3UF.

For further information contact Ian Beales (see details left)