



Role of Press Council Independent Public Interest Directors

There are seven independent public interest directors of the Press Council, who are appointed by an independent Appointments Committee. They are currently Rory Montgomery (Chair); Professor Maeve Conrick (Vice-Chair); James Doorley; Alan Dukes; Edith Geraghty; Dr Tim Hinchy; and Sunniva McDonagh SC.

Six directors are drawn from the press industry: two are reflective of national newspapers, one of Irish editions of UK newspapers, one of the National Union of Journalists, one of the local press and one of magazines.

The Board meets monthly, except for January and August. It normally meets for two and a half hours on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month. In-person attendance is desirable, but remote participation is also possible.

The core function of the Board is to decide on appeals against decisions by the Press Ombudsman. There are usually approximately twelve such appeals a year. It also considers issues of relevance to the maintenance of independent and high-quality journalism, approves the Press Council's annual budget, monitors expenditure, appoints the Press Ombudsman, and considers applications by publications for membership of the Press Council.

The Vice-Chair chairs meetings in the absence of the Chair, and also chairs the Administrative Committee, which is comprised of press industry representatives and is tasked with ensuring that the Council is adequately resourced.

Ordinary members can very occasionally be asked to serve on ad-hoc sub-committees.