



PRESS DISTRIBUTION REVIEW PANEL (PDRP)

Launch of the Press Distribution Review Panel designed to review performance

The Press Distribution Review Panel (PDRP) held its inaugural meeting on 24th February 2011. It has been formed to:

- a. Encourage industry compliance with the standards set out in the Press Distribution Charter (PDC).
- b. Provide comment to the Press Distribution Forum (PDF) on compliance issues.
- c. Ensure continuity of decisions resulting from the Charter's complaints resolution process.
- d. Provide an ongoing mechanism for the identification of supply chain trends.
- e. Collect, audit and publish data on compliance with the Charter.

The PDRP is an independent body made up of newspaper, magazine, wholesale and retail representatives as follows:

Darren Barker	Newspaper Publishers Association (NPA)
Richard Church	R & J Newsagents, Kent
Jonathan Denton	Smiths News
Raj Ganatra	Sweet News, Luton
Carrie Rooks	Professional Publishers Association (PPA)
David Shedden	Menzies Distribution
Mark Williams	Williams Brothers, Guildford

The Press Distribution Charter sets out the standards that retailers of newspapers and magazines, whatever their size or location, should expect to receive from wholesalers and publishers. It will improve service and help retailers provide a better service to their customers.

The Charter helps retailers to resolve most problems quickly and effectively; however, in the event that problems are more serious or persistent, the Charter is supported by a complaints resolution process that includes independent arbitration.

The complaints resolution process and compliance to the Charter will be overseen by the new independent review panel, the PDRP. Through this review process, supply chain performance will be monitored and the results published in a transparent fashion.

PDRP Chairman, Neil Robinson, said "Through a self-regulatory system which has the support and commitment of the newspaper and magazine industry it will be possible to maintain the high standards established in the Press Distribution Charter. The Press Distribution Review Panel is the independent watchdog at the heart of self regulation and, as such, will have a mission to ensure compliance and identify trends that may be harmful to the efficiency of distribution chain and thus sales. In order to ensure that procedures are open and transparent, Independent Arbitration decisions will be published on the PDF web site and there will be a quarterly report of data resultant from the process."

- ENDS -

Notes to editors:

PRESS DISTRIBUTION FORUM (PDF) · The purpose of the Press Distribution Forum (PDF) is to provide a self regulated forum for associations and companies involved in the supply and distribution of newspapers and magazines and to ensure the continuation of a diverse and plural press with its widespread availability to retailers and consumers. More information on the PDF can be found at www.pressdistributionforum.com

PRESS DISTRIBUTION CHARTER (PDC) – The Charter sets out the minimum standards that a retailer can expect from publishers and wholesalers and, as such, intends to ensure that the supply chain gets the right product to the right place at the right time. In the event of serious or persistent problems with supply, the Charter is supported by a complaints resolution process which can be escalated up to a qualified Independent Arbitrator.

Short biographies for each PDRP member.



Carrie Rooks – International & Operations Director

Carrie has been in the magazine industry for over 25 years during which time she has been involved in almost every aspect of UK and International supply chain management. During her time with Seymour Carrie has used her knowledge of the industry to good use by engaging in a number of the major business projects delivered within the company. In addition to her board responsibilities for the International business Carrie also sits on the UK board and has overall responsibility for local IT service and UK supply chain activity relating to wholesale and logistics within Seymour.



Darren Barker – News International

I have been involved in newspapers for the last twenty years in both the publisher and wholesale sectors. I joined the industry in 1990 as a Trainee Manager with John Menzies Wholesale at their Middlesborough depot, spending nine years with Menzies before leaving in 1999 to join News International. My initial role was Wholesale Area Manager in the North East. Following two years in the field I took the plunge to move down south for an office based role in Wapping, working on supply allocation. I undertook a number of positions including Deputy Head of Wholesale and Retail Operations before becoming involved in NI's Direct to Retail. My current position as Head of Direct To Retail Operations is a relatively new role and involves me in many areas of NI's route to market strategy. In 2009 I also joined the ACE governing committee and became ACE Chairman in 2011.



Dave Shedden is Menzies Distribution's Head of Communications.

Over the last 10 years, Dave has worked in a wide range of roles throughout *Menzies Distribution*, covering operational management, copy allocation, project work and most recently the creation and development of the Communications department.

In addition to his current duties, he is a member of *Newstraid's* Key Group, a team of young executives who work to promote the industry charity.



Jonathan Denton – Smiths News.

Jonathan has worked for Smiths News for just over 29 years. His career within the News business commenced in Sheffield in 1982 and has worked in many Smiths News locations around the country, mainly in Operations.

He has also held roles such as Operations Manager, House Manager, and Regional Manager.

Jonathan is now based out of Smiths News Head Office in Swindon; he is also a Pension Trustee of the WHSmith Pension Trust.



Mark Williams – William Bros

A fourth generation news trade professional having been involved in distribution, wholesale and retail aspects of the trade. After rewarding careers in management accountancy and business change consultancy, Mark took over operation of Williams Bros – formerly an independent wholesaler and now predominantly a rounds man - in 2003 serving around 800 customers daily. A successful property management business operates alongside the newsagency and tenants include other newsagents in the area.



Rajesh Ganatra – Sweet News

My name is Rajesh Ganatra. I am married with two children and am currently running an independent newsagent in Luton, Beds.

My wife and I have been the owners of the shop for the last 20 years, prior to this I used to work for a multi-national American firm.

I am also a member of the NFRN, and am considering putting myself forward for the post of Vice President of the local branch at the next AGM. I am a happy go lucky chap who loves to meet and interact with people from all different walks of life.



Richard Graham Church

County Grammar school educated leaving aged 15-no qualifications.

Signed up for military service in Dec 1963 as a boy soldier until June 1966, transferring to Corps of Royal Engineers for full Colour Service (22 years) from June 1966 to June 1988, serving in Germany, Denmark, Central America and Canada.

Trained as a Combat Engineer, Resources Specialist (stores) and as a mechanical fitter covering engines & pumps, engineer construction plant and petroleum installation.

Qualified as a Teacher in Further Education spending final four years service at Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham, as part of the Training Development Team.

First main civilian employment as Depot Supervisor, moving to Depot Manager with GKN (Chep) Ltd at Erith until depot closure.

In 1991 moved to employment at Thamesport (London) Ltd – sea container terminal – on the Isle of Grain, spending the last seven years as Rail Terminal Supervisor including time spent as TGWU branch chairman and also as a pension fund Trustee

Became joint retailer with my wife Janice in February 2006 at our current CTN outlet in Ramsgate, Kent. Member of NFRN.



For further information please contact:-

Neil Robinson - PDRP Chairman
Dorothy King - PDRP Administrator
67a South Street, Stanground, Peterborough, PE2 8EX
Telephone: 0843 289 0438
Email: admin@prdp.co.uk