

08|03|04

Ofcom appoints two additional members to the Consumer Panel

Ofcom today announced the appointment of Azeem Azhar and Nainish Bapna to the Consumer Panel. The appointments follow the announcement on 12 February 2004 of eight members to the Panel.

The Consumer Panel is an independent body set up under the Communications Act 2003 to advise Ofcom on consumer interests in the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors. The Panel will operate at full arm's length from Ofcom, helping to inform its decision-making.

Colette Bowe, Chairman of the Consumer Panel, said: "The two appointments complete the Panel and ensure that we speak for consumers from diverse sections of our society".

Nainish Bapna is the MD of Pharmacy Channel - the world's largest digital point-of-sales advertising network in independent pharmacies. He was previously Director of Operations at NCorp Ltd, a UK-based technology company (2000-2001). Nainish has significant experience in research and private equity at Nomura (1998-2000), where he covered technology companies and UBS (1995-1998), where he investigated stock markets on a global basis.

Nainish travels extensively and is the founder of the Asian Professionals Network; an organisation to foster and facilitate professional development.

Azeem Azhar is a writer and has excellent knowledge in the media and technology areas with experience of working for two national publications, the BBC and at the executive level for a number of Internet companies.

Azeem is currently Principal for OxMedia Ltd, a management consultancy company. He was previously the UK Managing Director and Chief Marketing Officer for Albert-Inc (2001-2002). During 1999-2000 he was founder and Chief Executive of eSouk.com and Board member of Planetout Partners and Another.com; before becoming the strategy manager for the BBC with responsibility for developing the launch of its online businesses (BBC Online) from 1997-1999. Azeem started his media career as the Technology Correspondent for The Guardian before moving on to become the Business Correspondent for The Economist.

Ends.

Notes for the editors and CSEs

1. The Panel held its first meeting under the Chairmanship of Colette Bowe, on 23 February 2004. The Panel has its own website at www.ofcomconsumerpanel.org.uk

2. Ofcom is the independent regulator for the UK communications industries, with responsibilities across television, radio, telecommunications and wireless communications services.

Our duties include:

- The promotion of choice, quality and value in electronic communications services, where appropriate by encouraging competition between the providers of those services
- Ensuring the most efficient use of the radiocommunications spectrum - the airwaves used for the transmission of all non-military wireless communications services
- Ensuring a wide range of electronic communications services, including broadband, is available across the UK
- Ensuring a wide range of TV and radio programmes of high quality and wide appeal
- Maintaining plurality in the media by ensuring a sufficiently broad range of ownership
- The protection of audiences against offensive or harmful material, unfairness or the infringement of privacy on TV and radio

For further details please visit www.ofcom.org.uk.

Contact
Ofcom Media Office
mediaoffice@ofcom.org.uk
(+44) (0)20 7981 3033