

MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held on Wednesday 1 February 2017 at 10.30 a.m.
Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London EC4M 7LG

Present: Sir Alan Moses (Chairman)
Anne Lapping
Sir Martyn Lewis
Charles McGhee
Mehmuda Mian
Keith Perch
Ruth Sawtell
Mike Soutar
Charles Wilson

Attending: Charlotte Dewar – Director of Operations
Niall Duffy – Director of External Affairs
Ben Gallop – Head of Complaints
Michelle Kuhler – PA to CEO minute taker
Bianca Strohmman – Head of Complaints
Matt Tee - Chief Executive
Charlotte Urwin – Head of Standards

Observer: Elisabeth Ribbans – Complaints Committee Member

1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Rick Hill, Claire Singers and Trevor Kavanagh. The Chairman welcomed Charlotte Dewar back from leave and Elisabeth Ribbans to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 December 2016 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report - oral

The Chairman updated the board.

He reported that Bob Statchwell, of the Society of Editors was still in intensive care.

IPSO had recently held a breakfast meeting for 'influencers' at which there had been a valuable exchange of views. He encouraged Board members to invite people they knew to future breakfasts, as work with these groups should be a priority this year.

The Chairman had met with Stand up, Stand out (a migrant youth led organisation) and Citizens UK. He also had a meeting coming up with Miqdaad Versi of the Muslim Council of Britain.

6. Chief Executive's Report - oral

The Chief Executive gave an oral report.

He informed the Board that the Section 40 consultation run by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport had recently finished. They had received over 140,000 responses, making it the second largest consultation response ever received. Any Government announcement following the consultation would be delayed by the two judicial reviews that had been launched. One by Hacked Off challenging the decision to have a consultation, and the other by the News Media Association challenging the Press Recognition Panel's decision to recognise Impress. He informed the Board that it was not likely that there will be a decision until the autumn.

Following the recent induction days for the new Board members, the Chief Executive invited any other members of the Board that were interested to visit the office, as they would be more than welcome.

He also mentioned the recent visit by Board members to The Telegraph which had been very successful. We would be arranging regional visits for those members that would like to attend throughout the year.

The Chief Executive finished by mentioning two upcoming events, Manchester Roadshow and the Chairman appearing on the Today Programme, both on Wednesday 8 February.

7. Strategic context and business plan

The Chief Executive introduced the plan. He explained that the paper was a revised version of a paper that the Board had seen at the last meeting, which had been changed following Board input and contributions from the Director of Operations. The Board discussed the plan, focussing particularly on IPSO's role with relation to the public. The Board agreed the plan and asked that a version of it be put on the IPSO website.

The meeting was adjourned for 7 minutes

8. Discussion paper on Editors' Code consultation

The Head of Standards introduced the paper saying that consultation on changes to the Editors' Code was coming to an end shortly and the Board needed to decide what, if any, submission IPSO should make. While IPSO was generally happy with the current Editors' Code, there were areas that had been raised with us that we might want to address in a submission, for example identification of young people involved in crime or the ability of groups to complain about discrimination.

In discussion the Board felt that since the Board would vote on any final changes to the Code, it would not be appropriate to propose changes at this point. The Board asked the Head of Standards to make a submission that made no proposals, but highlighted areas we expected to be considered during the consultation.

9. External affairs plan

The Director of External Affairs introduced the plan and highlighted the priority areas for external communication during the year. The Board approved the external affairs plan. The Board also agreed that the next Roadshow should be in Scotland.

The Chief Executive informed the Board that we were in discussions with the McCann advertising agency about a possible ad campaign. The Chief Executive promised to keep the Board updated.

10. Complaints Report

Bianca Strohmann, Head of Complaints introduced the report. She highlighted that performance in a number of complaints' measures was lower than we would expect it to be. Partly this was due to some delays caused by the Christmas break, which would be recovered later in the year. The reasons for the low figures for resolving complaints in 90 days were more complex, she said. She committed to further analysis of the reason for the delays and to report back to the Board.

After some discussion about complaints performance, the Board noted the report.

11. Finance, Performance Report and Top Five Risks

The Chief Executive introduced the item.

The Board noted the reports.

12. Versi v The Sun

The Chairman introduced the paper. The Complaints Committee had adjudicated on two complaints against The Sun. The Chairman proposed that when the adjudication was published there should also be a statement from the Board. After discussion, the following statement was agreed:

"The Complaints Committee of the Independent Press Standards Organisation reached a decision on the above complaint in accordance with its role in ruling on

complaints framed under the Editors' Code of Practice. IPSO's Board chose not to comment further on this matter while the complaint was on-going.

IPSO's Board has now issued the following statement:

IPSO is committed to ensuring that individuals who believe that they have been wronged by the press are able to seek proper redress without fear of retribution or victimisation. In this instance, public comments by an IPSO Board member brought the strength of this commitment into question. This should not have happened. The Board has received an apology from the Board member and an assurance that it will not happen again."

13. Any other business

There was no other business.

14. Staff Survey – all IPSO staff except the Chief Executive left the meeting for this item

The Chief Executive presented a paper setting out the results of the staff survey and a comparison with the previous year. After a discussion about the possible causes of the changes in the survey figures, the Board approved the action plan the Chief Executive had proposed.

15. Remuneration minutes – all IPSO staff left the meeting for this item

The Board noted the minutes of the Remuneration Committee.

16. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 12 April 2017

The meeting finished at 1.30pm

**Michelle Kuhler
PA to Chairman and CEO**