
MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held at Fieldfishers, on Tuesday 27th July at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Lord Edward Faulks (Chairman)
Charles Garside
Eddie Gray
Sarah Lee
Matthew Lohn (*remotely to 11.15am*)
Brendan McGinty
Ruth Sawtell
Claire Singers (*remotely Items 1 -12*)
Martin Trepte

Attending: Charlotte Dewar – Chief Executive Officer
Jane Debois – Head of Standards and Regulation
Vikki Julian – Head of Communications
Michelle Kuhler – PA/minute taker (*remotely*)
Tonia Milton – Head of Systems (*remotely*)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Ian MacGregor, Lara Fielden and Barry McIlheney.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Subject to an amendment proposed in relation to item 10, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 June 2021 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report – oral

The Chairman informed the Board about developments with the online safety bill and other parliamentary matters. He noted the recent publication of a report by the Communications and Digital Committee, "Freedom for all? Freedom of expression in the digital age", which was of relevance to IPSO's work.

He noted that IPSO had submitted a response to the Safety of Journalists Consultation as evidence for the joint Home Office/DCMS National Action Plan for the Safety of Journalists.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive updated the Board on recent recruitment. Tristan Davies had been appointed to a forthcoming vacancy on the Complaints Committee. Interviews for a second vacancy would take place shortly. Brendan McGinty and Claire Singers, members of the Nominations Committee, gave their feedback on the appointments process.

The Chief Executive updated the Board in relation to IPSO's standards monitoring and noted that a matter that had recently been raised had been closed without any further action required at this time.

The Chief Executive and Head of Standards and Regulation took questions from the Board.

The Board noted the report.

7. Complaints Report

The Chief Executive introduced the report, informing the Board that the period of vacancy in the Head of Complaints role would come to an end shortly. She noted that it had been challenging and even exhausting, but also beneficial and at times very inspiring. She noted that the appointee had been very supportive, enthusiastic and involved already, attending a Complaints Committee meeting and meeting with the Complaints Team.

The Chief Executive took questions from the Board.

The Board noted the report.

8. External Affairs Report

The Head of Communications presented her report. She updated the Board in relation to Hanno Fenech's recent promotion and the progress on recruitment of a Communications Officer for the team.

The Head of Communications took questions on the report from the Board.

The Board noted the report.

9. Covid Report

The Chairman introduced the report, noting that this was a draft and that Board members were invited to provide general observations on its content and format.

Board members praised the report and all the hard work that had gone into its production.

The Head of Communications took feedback from the Board.

10. Training Strategy

The Head of Standards and Regulation introduced the Board to the proposed training strategy. Due to an administration error the majority of the Board had not seen or read the report. It was agreed that members would review the report and email input to the Head of Standards and Regulation, separately.

The Head of Standards and Regulation took questions from the Board.

The report was redistributed to the Board members.

11. Publisher consultation responses

The Head of Communications introduced the report. A discussion was held on the responses received and the resolution plans from IPSO to these.

It was agreed that full copies of consultation responses would be circulated to those who had requested them and that further analysis would be done as part of preparations for the next organisational strategy.

The Board noted the responses.

12. Risk Reporting at IPSO

The Chief Executive introduced her report and took questions from the Board.

A discussion was held in respect of the Board and other panels, including the extent of their interaction with staff members and staff understanding of what Board/panel members do.

The Board noted the report.

13. Finance reports

The Chief Executive took the Board through her reports, informing the members of IPSOs intentions of using these surplus funds.

The Board noted the reports.

14. Any other business

There was a discussion held on privacy notices and IPSOs current policy surrounding these, including the potential for them to be publicised in some form.

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st September.

Michelle Kuhler, PA to Chairman and CEO