
MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held at Gate House, on Tuesday 8th February at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Lord Edward Faulks (Chairman)
Matt Brown (*remotely*)
Charles Garside
Eddie Gray
Sarah Lee
Michaela McAleer (*remotely*)
Ian MacGregor
Brendan McGinty
Barry McIlheney (*remotely*)
Claire Singers
Martin Trepte (*remotely*)

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and noted that no apologies were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th December 2021 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report – oral

The Chairman informed the Board that he was delighted that Claire Singers had agreed to serve as Deputy Chair of the Board. He thanked Claire for undertaking the role.

The Chairman updated the Board on developments regarding online safety legislation.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive noted that recruitments for a new Lay Board member and a new Complaints Reviewer were under way.

She informed the Board that Chloe McKiver was preparing a Briefing Book for the Board with all relevant handbooks, policies and information for reference.

The Chief Executive presented to the Board a substantially revised Staff Handbook and noted some areas of significant change.

The Board discussed the draft and made suggestions for amendments to the social media policy and layout.

The Board approved the revised Staff Handbook.

Claire Singers, Chair of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, updated the Board on the Committee's work.

7. Operations and performance report

The Head of Standards and Regulation informed the Board that IPSO's annual statement cycle for 2021 would shortly begin.

She updated the Board on the ongoing review of the Jewish Chronicle's compliance with the Editors' Code and engagement with the Chronicle's new Editor.

The Head of Communications informed the Board that preparations had started for the build of a new website and database. A paper on the database update would be brought to the next Board meeting.

The Head of Communications took questions from the Board.

The Head of Standards informed the Board that IPSO would undertake a refresh on key pieces of guidance this year and would produce new guidance on Court reporting before the end of March.

In the absence of the Head of Complaints, the Chief Executive informed the Board that Emily Houlston-Jones and Alice Gould had been appointed as Senior Complaints Officers and that Sarah Colbey had been appointed as a Complaints Officer.

The Board noted the reports.

8. Strategic context

The Chairman introduced the paper to the Board and handed over to the Chief Executive, who took the Board through the report, which related to IPSO's engagement with regulated publishers.

The Board discussed the impact of Covid on external engagement, including with publishers.

The Board noted the report.

Risk report

The Chief Executive noted that there had been changes to several key risks. Risks associated with staff turnover had declined. She noted that the Board would discuss the annual staff survey at its next meeting.

The Board noted the risk report.

9. Finance and audit reports

The Board noted the reports.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th March 2022

Michelle Kuhler, PA to Chairman and CEO