
MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held at Gate House, on Tuesday 28th March at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Lord Edward Faulks
Matt Brown
Shrenik Davda
Charles Garside
Sarah Lee
Ian MacGregor
Michaela McAleer (remotely)
Brendan McGinty (remotely)
Barry McIlheney (remotely)
Kavita Reddi
Martin Trepte

Attending: Charlotte Dewar – Chief Executive Officer
John Davidson – Head of Communications
Jane Debois – Head of Standards
Dr Beth Kitson – Chair EDI Steering Committee (*Item 11*)
Michelle Kuhler – PA/minute taker
Tonia Milton – Head of Systems

Observing:

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Eddie Gray.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th February 2023 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report – oral

The Chairman updated the Board on recent events, including meetings with representatives of the Press Recognition Panel and David Jordan, Director of Editorial Policy and Standards at the BBC.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive updated the Board on various matters not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

The Board were invited to approve Will Gore's reappointment to a further three-year term as a Complaints Committee member.

The Board approved the reappointment of Will Gore as an alternate member for a further three year term.

The Chief Executive took questions and comments from the Board.

7. Operations and performance report

The Chairman updated the Board on the additional scheduled meeting this week for the Complaint Committee.

The Head of Communications informed the Board that a new Communications Officer would join IPSO shortly.

The Head of Standards & Regulation informed the Board that the public consultation on draft guidance was now closed. There had been a very healthy response, with the majority of submissions received being from members of the public. The work would now begin on reviewing them.

She gave the Board feedback on interactions that have taken place since the consultation went live.

The Head of Systems informed the Board that IPSO had recently held the first staff event organised by the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee, which was due to meet again in April.

Board members made comments and asked questions on updates in the Operations report.

The Board noted the reports.

8. Risk Report

The Chief Executive presented an updated risk register. She noted that a new, expanded key person risk had been added following a comment at a previous Board meeting.

It was confirmed in response to a question that IPSO currently does not use Tik Tok.

The Board noted the report.

9. Finance reports

The Chief Executive presented management accounts up to January 2023 2022.

The Board noted the reports.

10. Draft 2022 accounts and audit findings report

The Chairman updated the Board on the comments received from Eddie Gray, Chair of Audit and Risk Committee, on the draft accounts prepared for 2022. Sarah Lee and Barry McIlheney, members of the Audit and Risk Committee, confirmed the Committee's support for the draft accounts.

The Board noted the audit findings report, and approved the draft 2022 accounts and the going concern statement.

11. Report from Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee Chair

Beth Kitson, Chair of the EDI Steering Committee, introduced her report to the Board. She noted that the pillars of the Steering Committee's work were to exercise oversight of implementation of the EDI strategy by the management team; to provide a sounding board for the management team on EDI issues; and to offer advice on strategic issues such as how IPSO can measure its progress in implementing the EDI strategy. She commented on the Committee's work and progress to date.

Beth took questions and suggestions from the Board members.

The Board expressed its congratulations for the progress and support for the work of the EDI Steering Committee, and noted the report.

12. Jeffrey Review report

The Chairman introduced the report, noting that it had been received by IPSO shortly before the meeting. He commented that in his view it was very thorough, well-reasoned and fair, and showed a good understanding of IPSO.

The Chief Executive gave her thoughts, views and reflection on the report.

The Head of Communications updated the Board on the plan for the publication of the report.

The Board raised questions, and gave their comments and feedback on the report. The Board noted that further, more detailed analysis and consideration of the recommendations would be required.

13. Winter staff survey 2022 (Board and Chief Executive only)

The Board discussed the results of the winter staff survey.

14. Any other business

There was no other business.

15. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 26^h June 2023.

Michelle Kuhler, PA to Chairman and CEO