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**MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING**  
**Held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 10.30 a.m.**  
Via Video Conference Call

Present: Lord Edward Faulks (Chairman)  
Lara Fielden  
Charles Garside  
Eddie Gray  
Matthew Lohn  
Ian MacGregor  
Brendan McGinty  
Barry McIlheney  
Mehmuda Mian  
Ruth Sawtell  
Claire Singers  
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  
Tonia Milton – Head of Systems  
Lauren Sloan – Head of Complaints

1. Welcome and Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 February 2021 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

## 5. Chairman's Report – oral

The Chair noted that the interview given by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex to Oprah Winfrey had received widespread coverage. IPSO did not respond publicly but was monitoring the situation closely, and this would be discussed further under item 6.

The Chair noted that Lauren Sloan would sadly be leaving IPSO after four years, concluding as Head of Complaints. She had been an incredible asset to IPSO, which had benefited greatly from her talents; he paid particular tribute to the support she had given to the Complaint Officers over the very challenging last year. All at IPSO would miss her terribly and wished her all the very best for her future. The Board added its thanks to Lauren Sloan.

## 6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive added her thanks to the Chair's to Lauren Sloan for her work as Head of Complaints and agreed that she would be missed.

She updated the Board on current recruitments, including for the Head of Complaints, an additional Complaints Officer role and the Appointment Panel.

She updated the Board on responses to the publisher consultation under way. These would be presented to the Board in due course.

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the refresh of the Readers and Journalists Advisory Panels being conducted by the Head of Standards and Regulation.

She finished with an update on the organisation's response to the matters raised by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. She noted that editorial standards aspects to their concerns were under review and would be discussed further by the Liaison Committee.

This was also an opportunity for IPSO to reflect on its role as an employer. The Chief Executive announced the creation of a new ad hoc Committee, with members drawn from the Board, Committee and staff, to review how IPSO addresses issues of diversity, equality and inclusion, as an employer.

**The Board noted the report.**

## 7. Complaints Report

The Head of Complaints updated the Board on operational matters relating to the complaints function.

She also presented to the Board a proposal by the Executive that it should recommend to the Complaints Committee that it pursue an inquiry into a potential breach of the Editors' Code.

Board members supplied their feedback on the proposal.

**The Board agreed to recommend that the Committee proceed.**

Board members noted that this did not represent any finding as to whether there was a breach of the Editors' Code, which would be a matter for the Complaints Committee to rule on at the conclusion of the process.

## 8. External Affairs Report

The Head of Communications presented a paper reviewing IPSO's communications and external affairs activities.

She noted that IPSO continues to focus on Covid-19 in its communications and that this had had a positive response.

The Head of Communications and Head of Standards and Regulation met a number of organisations including Level up and Women's Aid.

IPSO had also received correspondence from the newly appointed Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs, and a meeting was planned with her.

The Chief Executive had attended a briefing the previous week with representatives of the Department for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport to discuss online harms.

Members of the Board congratulated the staff on the range of meetings that are being held, especially in the current climate.

The Head of Communications responded to questions from Board members about external meetings noted in the report.

**The Board noted the report.**

## 9. Proposal: Covid report

The Head of Communications presented a proposal to the Board for a review of IPSO's experience of Covid reporting. She thanked members of the Board

who had already contributed to the process. She took the report through various areas of the report and took questions from the Board.

**The Board noted the report and gave its approval for the work to proceed.**

#### 10. Risk report

The Chief Executive updated the Board on updates to the risk register and presented a proposed statement of IPSO's risk appetite.

The Chief Executive, thanked the Audit & Risk Committee for their input into the development of the risk appetite statement.

**The Board noted the reports and approved the updated risk register and risk appetite statement.**

#### 11. Information security risk update

The Head of Systems presented a paper reviewing IT developments that IPSO has or will undertake this year to mitigate risks relating to information security and systems.

The Head of Systems took questions from the Board.

**The Board noted the report.**

#### 12. Finance and Budget reports

The Chief Executive presented the finance reports to the Board.

The Chairman and Chief Executive took questions from the Board on the reports.

**The Board noted the reports.**

#### 13. Staffing update (Confidential)

**All IPSO staff, except for the Chief Executive, left the meeting for the item.**

#### 14. Any other business

There was no other business.

#### 15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Michelle Kuhler

PA to Chairman and CEO