
MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held on Wednesday 25 October 2017 at 10.00 a.m.
Landmark House, The Gasworks, 5 Ormeau Rd, Belfast BT7 2JD

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

Attending: Charlotte Dewar – Director of Operations
Niall Duffy – Director of External Affairs
Matt Tee – Chief Executive

1. Apologies

Were received from Trevor Kavanagh.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 July 2017 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report – oral

The Chairman began his report by noting that having the Board meeting in Belfast had required a lot of work and organisation. He particularly thanked Niall Duffy and Vikki Julian for organising the trip and roadshow, Charlie

Wilson for organising a visit to HMS Caroline, and Rick Hill for ensuring Board members engaged with the right people, during the visit.

The Chairman reported some changes in Board responsibilities. After three years, Anne Lapping has ceased being Vice-Chairman. The Chairman thanked her for all the work she had done and reported that she had been replaced by Rick Hill. As a result, Rick has stood down from the Audit and Risk Committee. The new Chairman is Charles McGhee and Mike Soutar has also joined the committee.

The Chairman brought the Board up to date on progress with the judicial review proceedings which have been brought against up.

Finally the Chairman reported that he had had a positive meeting with George Osborne, the new editor of the Evening Standard.

The Board noted the report.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive introduced his report, highlighting progress on the new arbitration scheme, his appearance before the Lords Committee on Political Polling and his appearance, with the Director of Operations, at the CMA inquiry on the Fox/ Sky merger.

In discussion Board members asked for reports from the Liaison Committee to come to the Board more often. The Chief Executive suggested that a report come to the Board after each meeting of the committee.

The Board noted the report.

7. Operations Report

The Director of Operations introduced her report and highlighted work on recruitment of new IPSO members and data protection.

IPSO had recruited six new members since the beginning of the year, although changes in the industry had meant that some members had gone out of business or been acquired. Other publishers had been approached to join. Board members were encouraged to use any personal links they had to non-members to assist in recruitment.

On data protection, the Director of Operations set out IPSO's preparation for the introduction of the General Data Protection Review. The Chief Executive reassured the Board that in comparison to other organisations he was familiar with, IPSO seemed to be ahead in its readiness, thanks to the work the Director of Operations had done.

The Director of Operations also reported that IPSO had engaged an IT security consultant to assess our systems and to advise on possible improvements.

The Board noted the report.

8. External Affairs Report

The Director of External Affairs introduced his report. In doing so he highlighted roadshows in Glasgow and Belfast and parliamentary activity related to press regulation.

The Board noted the report.

9. Complaints Report

The Director of Operations introduced the report. In doing so she highlighted high levels of complainant satisfaction, which the Board commended.

She also highlighted changes in the number of complaints received, which had fallen significantly in quarter 3. This seemed to be explained by fewer than usual multiple complaints. The number of investigated complaints had not varied by anything like the same amount.

In noting the report, the Board welcomed the improvement in internal response times.

10. Finance, performance report and risk register

The Chief Executive introduced the report. Finances looked healthy, although there were some unexpected legal costs in Q3 and Q4.

On risk, he reported that he had engaged a consultant to run a risk workshop in the New Year to help the organisation to see risk more strategically.

The Board noted the report.

11. Digital Review

The Chief Executive introduced the report, noting the responses to the consultation and the revised proposal on jurisdiction.

After discussion and questions, the Board agreed that it supported a change to the regulations to say:

IPSO shall have jurisdiction to regulate content published online by a Global Digital Publisher when one of the following criteria applies:*

- 1. The content relates to events within the UK.*
- 2. The content concerns a UK national or resident who is directly and personally affected by the alleged breach of the Code, or otherwise in respect of clause 1 of the Editors' Code (accuracy), the content concerns UK nationals, residents, or institutions.*
- 3. The content is based on material that has been published in a UK print title within the Global Digital Publisher's group.*

**Global Digital Publisher means an electronic service which employs journalists and operates newsrooms both inside and outside the UK, which operates distinct editorial and compliance structures to deal with jurisdictions outside the UK.*

The Board agreed that this proposal should form the basis for negotiations with members about amendments to the regulations, which would be necessary in order to make such a change.

12. Guidance for Journalists: reporting death and inquests

The Director of Operations presented the proposed guidance, which had been developed by the Standards team. She explained that it followed an intensive consultation with editors and compliance executives at several newspapers, as well as the members of IPSO's Readers' and Journalists' Advisory Panels.

The Board enthusiastically endorsed the guidance and agreed to its publication.

13. The Editors' Code of Practice

The Chief Executive introduced the proposals for changes to the Editors' Code, which had been agreed by the Editors' Code of Practice Committee.

After some questions, the Board agreed to support the changes.

14. Proposal for changes to the regulations

The Chief Executive presented potential proposals for changes to IPSO's regulations. He informed the Board that his aim was to agree changes over the next nine months, ready to set the right environment for contact renewal.

After a thorough discussion and some amendments to the proposals, the Board agreed a set of changes for discussion with IPSO's members.

15. Any other business

There was no other business.

16. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 6 December 2017.