
MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held on Wednesday 25 September 2019 at 10.30 a.m.
Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG

Present: Sir Alan Moses (Chairman)
Rick Hill
Anne Lapping
Matthew Lohn
Ian MacGregor
Charles McGhee
Mehmuda Mian
Ruth Sawtell
Claire Singers
Martin Trepte
Charlie Wilson

Attending: Vikki Julian – Communications Manager
Michelle Kuhler – PA/minute taker
Lauren Sloan – Joint Head of Complaints
Matt Tee – Chief Executive
Charlotte Urwin – Head of Standards

Observer: Lord Edward Faulks QC

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed Lord Faulks to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Mike Soutar.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 June 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report – oral

The Chairman updated the Board on recent events. He had attended and spoken at the Global Conference for Media Freedom held in Glasgow. He also appeared on a panel themed around trust in the media at the University of Sheffield. He had also visited Reach Plc.

The Chairman finished by expressing his disappointment at the recent leak of draft IPSO guidance.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive reconfirmed the new Chairman's appointment.

He informed the Board that the Regulatory Funding Company had agreed and signed the new funding agreement and that the office lease had been extended until 2024.

The Chief Executive updated the board on the issues around contract renewal, saying that two small magazine-type publishers had given notice to leave IPSO, but he was pleased to confirm that 81 publishers were now part of IPSO for the next five years.

He also confirmed that the following the voting period for publishers on the changes to the regulations, these were passed. The Regulations had been updated on the IPSO website.

He finished by thanking Charlotte Urwin, Head of Standards, for stepping up and managing the office during recent illness and absence and also thanked Katrina Bell and Thomas Moseley in the Complaints team for their work on complaints at the time.

7. Complaints Report

Lauren Sloan, Joint Head of Complaints, introduced the report. She updated the Board on the complaints team, outlining changes in staff in recent months.

She provided the Board with an overview of the structured induction plan for the new staff and confirmed that she was happy and confident that the team would cope with targets for time taken on investigated complaints.

She also confirmed that Holly Pick would be back from maternity leave at the beginning of October and that this would strengthen the team even more.

The Board noted the report.

8. External Affairs Report

The Communications Manager introduced her report, highlighting to the Board that quarter three had been unusual because there had been more reactive work.

She confirmed that IPSO had visited all the police forces in England and Board members informed her that they would provide details for the Scottish and Northern Ireland forces to enable IPSO to contact them next.

The Communications Manager finished by updating the Board on the new item that had been added to the report, regular activities.

The Board noted the report.

9. Finance, performance report and risk management

The Chief Executive introduced the reports. He gave the Board an overview of the finances. IPSO had made a surplus on the month of £39k against a budgeted surplus of £9k. He took the Board through the reasons for the difference.

He updated the Board on the Performance Report which that showed IPSO on target with most performance objectives. He informed the Board that IPSO had achieved its renewal certificate for ISO27001.

He finished by introducing the Risk Register.

The Board noted the reports.

10. Report from Audit and Risk Committee

The Chief Executive introduced the paper. He informed the Board that the Audit and Risk Committee recommended the annual accounts to the Board.

The Board formally approved the 2018 accounts

The Board noted the Audit & Risk Committee minutes from its meeting on 13 September 2019.

11. Guidance on the reporting of Muslims and Islam in the UK

The Head of Standards introduced her paper, inviting the Board to discuss the guidance. She updated the Board on the recent meeting held by the Society of Editors that a large number of editors had attended, which was both interesting and challenging. It was agreed that a further draft would be discussed at a later meeting.

The draft would first be taken to the next Liaison Committee meeting.

The Board noted the draft Guidance.

12. Discrimination and the Editors' Code of Practice

The Chairman introduced the paper, requesting Board approval for work to be carried out in preparation for the Editors' Code of Practice Committee consultation next year.

The Board formally approved the proposal.

13. Report on the Liaison Committee meeting

The Board noted the report and minutes from the Liaison Committee meeting 23 July 2019.

14. Any other business

There was no other business.

15. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 6th November.

All IPSO Staff left the meeting for the following items.

16. Report from Remuneration Committee

The Board approved the recommendations arising from the pay and benefits review.

17. Confidential Item – oral

The Chief Executive introduced a confidential item. After some discussion the Board agreed to defer consideration of the matter.

Michelle Kuhler
PA to Chairman and CEO