
MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held on Wednesday 11 July 2018 at 10.30 a.m.
Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG

Present: Sir Alan Moses (Chairman)
Anne Lapping
Sir Martyn Lewis
Ian MacGregor
Charles McGhee
Mehmuda Mian
Claire Singers
Mike Soutar

Attending: Charlotte Dewar – Director of Operations
Sir Hayden Phillips, Chairman, Appointments Panel
Vikki Julian – Senior Communications Officer
Michelle Kuhler – PA/minute taker
Bianca Strohmann – Head of Complaints
Matt Tee – Chief Executive
Charlotte Urwin – Head of Standards

1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Charles Wilson, Keith Perch, Rick Hill and Ruth Sawtell. The Chairman welcomed Sir Hayden Phillips to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 April 2018 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.

The subcommittee group that was recently formed to discuss Clause 12 (Discrimination) had had its first meeting and it would be meeting again after the Home Affairs Select Committee published its report.

The Editors' Code of Practice Committee had met recently and would also meet again to discuss the Home Affairs Select Committee.

The Chairman finished by informing the Board that Hugo Wallis would be leaving IPSO in August, and expressed the Board's gratitude to Hugo for all his hard work.

6. Appointment of a new Chairman - oral

Sir Hayden Phillips updated the Board on the proposed plan for recruiting a replacement for Sir Alan, informing the Board that he would like a replacement to be appointed by late spring/early summer next year.

The first meeting for the appointments panel to discuss the plan would be scheduled in September, where there would be two additional advisers to the Appointments Panel, brought in solely for this recruitment. They are John Witherow, Editor of the Times and Dame Laura Cox, a former High Court Judge.

He informed the Board that as well as advertising, head-hunters would be used. Sir Hayden also confirmed that members of the Board and Committee were able to apply for the role.

He finished by asking Board members if they would share their thoughts with him via email on the qualities they would expect to see from the new Chairman. He would be grateful for their input.

7. Executive's Report

The Chief Executive introduced his report, expressing his thanks to the Board for all their good wishes following his recent operation.

He briefed the Board on the recent change to the Secretary of State for the Digital, Culture, Media and Sports, with Matt Hancock being replaced by Jeremy Wright.

The Chief Executive then brought the Board up to date on the progress of the Compulsory Arbitration scheme and on IPSO's progress with the implementation of the Kerslake action plan.

He finished by informing the Board that he would be meeting with Dame Frances Cairncross about her review on the sustainability of quality journalism. IPSO intended to submit evidence for the review and the Chief Executive invited Board members to give their thoughts.

The Board noted the report.

8. Operations Report

The Director of Operations introduced her report. She updated the Board on progress with the General Data Protection Regulation implementation since the last board meeting, in particular the progress with supplementary agreements with data processors. She informed the Board that a new Handbook was being checked over by our solicitors.

She updated the Board on the progress of IPSO's training programme for publishers, which we had received excellent feedback on.

The Director of Operations finished by updating on resourcing within the complaints team.

The Board noted the report.

9. Complaints Report

The Head of Complaints introduced her report.

She informed the Board that she expected the next three to six months to be challenging because IPSO was losing two Senior Complaints Officers. The succession plan was agreed, but the loss of experience was likely to have some consequences. She would be working closely with the team to ensure that high standards would be maintained.

The Board noted the report.

10. External Affairs Report

The Senior Communications Officer introduced the report, bringing the Board up to date with the last quarter's external affairs activity.

IPSO had made a proactive contact to the Grenfell Inquiry, which had led to a meeting. We had made an approach to the Greater Manchester Local Resilience Forum about the Saddleworth Moor fire and they had circulated our harassment leaflet and private advisory details to first responders.

She informed the Board that MHP our external PR company had placed a number of articles about private advisory notices for us with all the major emergency services trade magazines.

The Senior Communications Officer then took the Board through the polling results and finished by asking the Board for their feedback on the draft Annual Report.

The Board noted the report.

11. Finance, performance report and risk management

The Chief Executive introduced the reports. He explained that we were over budget, largely due to legal and advertising. He also gave the Board an update on the loan repayment and rent review.

He finished by taking the Board through the new model risk management report, welcoming their comments.

The Board noted the reports.

12. Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee and Annual Accounts

Charles McGhee, Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee, introduced the paper. He provided the Board with an update on the Audit Report conducted by Grant Thornton.

The Board noted the Audit & Risk Committee minutes from its meeting on 18 May 2018.

The Board formally approved the 2017 accounts.

13. Liaison Committee Report

The Head of Standards introduced the report, highlighting in particular reporting of children.

The Board noted the report and Liaison Committee minutes from its meeting of 18 April 2018.

14. Guidance on reporting sexual offences

The Head of Standards introduced this item. She gave the Board an overview of the factors that have led to the production of the reporting of sexual offences guidance.

The Board agreed the draft guidance on reporting sexual offences.

15. Information Security

The Director of Operations introduced this item and highlighted the list of accepted risks.

The Board approved the draft Information Security Policy and agreed to accept the risks itemised in Appendix B.

16. Any other business

There was no other business.

17. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 10 October 2018.

Michelle Kuhler
PA to Chairman and CEO