

MINUTES

Board of Directors, Independent Press Standards Organisation

Halton House, 20-23 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD

24 September 2014 at 2.00 pm

Present: Sir Alan Moses (Chairman)
Kevin Hand
Anne Lapping
Martyn Lewis
Charles McGhee
Keith Perch
Charles Wilson

Attending: Elizabeth Cobbe, Deputy Director of Complaints & Pre-publication Services
Charlotte Dewar, Director of Complaints & Pre-publication Services/acting
Chief Executive Officer, Company Secretary
Matt Tee, Chief Executive Officer designate

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ros Altmann, Rick Hill, Dame Clare Tickell, William Newman and Richard Reed. Alan Moses noted that the meeting had been organised at short notice.

2. Introductory remarks

Alan Moses updated Board members on the progress of the launch of IPSO. He noted his gratitude to Charlotte Dewar for her management of the transition process and that IPSO owed a great debt to her for enabling IPSO to launch on 8 September. He updated the board on his recent meetings.

Matt Tee noted that he would take up his role on 29 September. He discussed public reaction to IPSO's launch and outlined his first priorities as Chief Executive.

Charlotte Dewar updated Board members on the status of the launch and the development of IPSO's complaints process.

3. Statement of principles

In their previous roles as members of the IPSO implementation committee, the members of the Board had approved a statement of principles, "The Approach of IPSO at its Outset". The Board formally and unanimously adopted an amended version of the statement of principles. Keith Perch and Charles McGhee formally abstained from the vote for the purposes of establishing a majority of lay members, but noted their full agreement with the principles. The Board agreed to append a copy of the document to the minutes of the meeting and that these principles should be published as part of those minutes on IPSO's website.

4. Governance

Alan Moses informed the Board that he wished to appoint a Deputy Chairman. The Board agreed that he would write to Board members to ask for nominations.

The Board agreed that it would need to elect sub committees; the Chief Executive would present a proposal for the number and nature of the sub committees at its next meeting in October.

The Board agreed that it would create a system of external review, both of its own work and of IPSO as an organisation.

5. Budget

Charlotte Dewar informed the Board that a budget had been agreed with the Regulatory Funding Company for the remainder of 2014 and noted that auditors were in the process of preparing accounts for the period up to 8 September 2014 so as to provide a clear distinction between the responsibilities of the PCC and IPSO.

Alan Moses reported on his initial meeting with the Regulatory Funding Company.

Matt Tee discussed his initial thoughts for the transitional and 2015 budgets and noted that he intended to make these issues a priority when he took up his new role.

[The meeting was joined by the following members of the IPSO Secretariat: Sam Falk, Ben Gallop, James Garmston, Sean Goldstein, Robyn Kelly, Tonia Milton, Bianca Strohmann, Hugo Wallis.]

6. IPSO functions and the relationship between them

The Board discussed the relationship between IPSO's functions and agreed that the matter should be referred to a new Steering Committee, to include members of the Board, Complaints Committee, and Secretariat, who would be asked to develop detailed proposals.

7. IPSO's Complaints function

The Board discussed issues relating to the handling of complaints by IPSO, including the publication of decisions, the interpretation of "exhaustion" (with respect to publications' internal complaints handling), and the processing of multiple complaints.

8. IPSO's Standards function

The Board discussed issues relating to IPSO's standards-raising function, including how it will monitor internal complaints handling by publications and the Regulations relating to Standards investigations. It agreed to refer these issues to the Steering Committee for further discussion.

It also agreed to issue an initial set of three requirements for the handling of internal complaints by publications, all of which related to the need to provide complainants with information about IPSO and how they might seek redress for breaches of the Editors' Code.

9. Any other business

The Board discussed several further issues raised by Board members in relation to IPSO's launch and its first weeks of operation.

In his role as Chairman, Alan Moses declared the meeting closed.