

MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING Tuesday 8 July 2025

Present: Lord Edward Faulks
Karen Barnes
Matt Brown
Shrenik Davda
Charles Garside
Alison Gow
Eddie Gray
Sarah Lee (*remote*)
Michaela McAleer (*remote*)
Brendan McGinty
Kavita Reddi
John Witherow

Attending: Charlotte Dewar – Chief Executive Officer
John Davidson – Head of Communications
Rosemary Douce – Head of Standards
Alice Gould – Head of Complaints
Emily Houlston-Jones – Head of Complaints
Michelle Kuhler – PA & minute taker (*remote*)
Tonia Milton – Head of Systems

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 May 2025 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report – oral

The Chairman reported to the Board on the recent Editors' Code of Practice Committee meeting, which included a lengthy discussion of the terms of Clause 12 (Discrimination).

The Chairman updated the Board on a recent meeting that he and the Head of Communications attended with staff at the Press Recognition Panel. He also updated the Board on recent news coverage and parliamentary debates pertaining to IPSO.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive noted the sad news of former IPSO Board member Barry McIlheney's recent death.

Board members expressed their sympathy to the McIlheney family.

The Board were invited to confirm formally the appointments of David Wooding and Leaf Kalfayan as Alternate Complaints Committee members.

The Board formally confirmed the appointments.

The Chief Executive noted that interviews for the new Appointment Panel Chair would be held shortly, with a view to IPSO making an appointment before the summer holidays. She expressed her thanks to members of the Nominations Committee for their work on the recruitment, which had kept to tight timescales.

The Chief Executive finished with an update on the forthcoming Board trip to Belfast.

7. Finance reports

The Chief Executive presented management accounts to May 2025. She updated the Board on key points. She noted that due to available financial and staff resource, IPSO would not hold a full-scale conference in 2025.

The Chief Executive took questions and comments from the Board.

The Board noted the management accounts.

8. Operations and performance reports

Alice Gould, Head of Complaints, updated the Board on complaints operations, workload and timelines.

She informed the Board that Marcus Pike has been appointed as a Senior Complaints Officer.

John Davidson, Head of Communications, updated the Board on recent external communications.

Rosemary Douce, Head of Standards, updated the Board on IPSO's engagement work, the webinar held and plans for a trip to Belfast. She updated the Board on the refresh of the Standards Investigation Panel.

Members of the senior management team took questions. The Board noted the updates and reports.

9. Prioritisation project review

Alice Gould, Head of Complaints, presented a paper reviewing the prioritisation project. She noted that it was now six months since IPSO had implemented new procedures for dealing with complaints which do not raise a possible breach of the Editors' Code. She informed the Board of the positive impact on the team's workloads following the change, which was in line with forecasts, and explained how the additional resource was being used.

She took questions, comments and suggestions from the Board.

The Board noted the review and congratulated the Head of Complaints on the successful project.

10. Update on Standards at the Jewish Chronicle

Rosemary Douce, Head of Standards, presented an update on editorial standards at the Jewish Chronicle over the first six months of 2025, following IPSO's public statement in 2025 on the issue. Since the start of the year, there had been one upheld complaint against the publication, a further two complaints which were investigated but not upheld, and another two under investigation.

She added that there had been no issues reported by complaints officers concerning the handling of complaints at the Chronicle this year and the publication's current approach to editorial standards was progressing in line with expectations. Two training sessions for staff were being arranged. She took questions from the Board.

The Board noted the update.

11. IPSO Chair recruitment update and discussion

The Chief Executive gave an overview on the process for the recruitment of a new IPSO Chair. She invited Board members to provide comments to inform the candidate specifications.

The Board noted the update and discussed the important skills, qualities and experience for an IPSO Chair. The Chief Executive noted the comments and informed the Board that they would be summarised and shared with the Appointment Panel. There would also likely be further opportunities to meet the Chair of the Panel, pending their own views on how they wished to run the process.

12. Any other business

There was no other business.

13. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 17 September.