
**MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Wednesday 17 September 2025**

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

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
Tonia Milton – Head of Systems

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and to Belfast. Apologies were received from Karen Barnes and John Witherow.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th July 2025 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report – oral

The Chair thanked to all of those who had helped plan the Board's visit to Belfast, particularly Elena Richards Coldicutt, Tonia Milton and Michelle Kuhler. He also expressed his appreciation to members of the Board and senior management team for their attendance.

He updated the Board on political developments of relevance to IPSO's work.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive presented the Board with updates on matters not covered elsewhere on the agenda and requested Board confirmation of several recent appointments.

She noted the selection by the Nominations Committee of Dame Julia Unwin to succeed Lord Triesman as Chair of the independent Appointment Panel and invited the Board to confirm the appointment formally.

The Board confirmed the appointment of Dame Julia Unwin DBE as Chair of the IPSO Appointment Panel.

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the timeline for the recruitment of the new Chair. She invited the remainder of the Board to approve a three-month extension of the Chair's term, to 31 March 2026, to support the transition to his successor.

The Board approved a three-month extension of the term of the current Chair to 31 March 2026.

The Chief Executive notified the Board that the Nominations Committee had recently selected nine panellists to join IPSO's pool to be called on in case a standards investigation was needed: Peter Clifton; Richard Neville; Marianne Partasides; Patrick Phelvin; Andrew Baum; Adam Baxter; Andy

Brennan; Unyime Davies; and Janine Green. She invited the Board to formally confirm their appointments.

The Board confirmed the appointments of the above-listed as IPSO Standards Investigation Panellists.

The Chief Executive updated the Board on other operational matters, including staffing matters; IPSO's arbitration scheme; and revisions to the Employee Handbook.

The Chief Executive presented Terms of Reference for the IPSO Nominations Committee, for the Board's approval.

The Board approved the Terms of Reference, subject to one minor amendment.

7. Operations and performance reports

Members of the Senior Management Team presented to the Board on IPSO's operations.

There was discussion about matters raised during newsroom visits at the Irish News and Belfast Telegraph. Board members praised the quality of the training presentations they had observed.

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

8. Finance reports

The Chief Executive presented management accounts to July 2025 and commented on spending plans for the remainder of the year.

The Chief Executive took questions and comments from the Board.

The Board noted the management accounts.

The Chief Executive noted that IPSO had undertaken a retender of IPSO's audit function, overseen by the Audit and Risk Committee. Sayer Vincent had been reappointed as external auditor for 2025. All concerned agreed that it had been a useful exercise.

The Board noted the reappointment of Sayer Vincent.

9. Risk report

The Chief Executive presented an updated statement of strategic risks and governance risk register. She invited the Board to participate in a discussion of strategic financial risks to IPSO.

The Board discussed risks associated with changes to news consumption and financial pressures on news media. Board members agreed that this was an important discussion that should be revisited in the near future and inform thinking in other areas, including communications.

10. Communications strategy

The Head of Communications presented a draft Communications Strategy 2025–2027.

After discussion, the Board approved the strategy.

Members of the senior management team, with the exception of the Chief Executive, left the meeting.

11. Confidential: Summer staff survey 2025

The Board discussed the results of the 2025 summer staff survey.

12. Any other business

There was no other business.

13. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 4 November 2025.