

# Candidate brief: Appointment Panel lay member

## About the Independent Press Standards Organisation

IPSO is the independent regulator for the digital and print news and magazine industry in the UK. Its role is to uphold high editorial standards to protect the public and freedom of expression, with the aim of making IPSO regulation the mark of credible, accountable journalism.

IPSO is implementing its [2023-28 strategy](#) which sets out how the organisation will protect the public interest by promoting high-quality journalism and defend the public when editorial standards fall short.

By protecting the public, it also protects freedom of expression, by demonstrating the press can uphold high standards without the need for further measures that would undermine press freedom.

In 2023 an [independent review of IPSO](#) by the former civil servant, Sir Bill Jeffrey found that IPSO regulation had “influenced the industry for the better”. The Review, which concluded the regulator was “well-led and managed” and “operating independently”, included 29 recommendations across 13 different areas, including governance, management, funding and communications.

## What does IPSO do?

- Enforces the [Editors' Code of Practice](#) – the widely-accepted principles of good journalism
- Investigates complaints about printed and online material that may breach the Editors' Code
- Monitors press standards and compliance, including through annual compliance statements submitted by regulated publishers
- Investigates serious standards failings and can issue fines in cases where they are particularly serious and systemic
- Operates a 24-hour anti-harassment advice line
- Runs a low-cost compulsory arbitration scheme to settle legal disputes
- Provides advice for editors and journalists on complying with the Editors' Code, through confidential one-to-one conversations and regular training sessions

- Provides a whistleblowing service for journalists who feel they are being pressured to act in a way that is not in line with the Editors' Code
- Works with charities, NGOs and other organisations to support and improve press standards.

## About the Appointment Panel

The Appointment Panel appoints members of IPSO's Board, including its Chair, and lay members of the [Editors' Code of Practice Committee](#). The role of the Appointment Panel is set out in IPSO's Articles of Association.

Members of the Appointment Panel play an essential role in reinforcing IPSO's independence and effectiveness by appointing candidates with the experience, skills, knowledge and integrity required to exercise roles of responsibility in this challenging and highly contested arena.

Members of the panel, which is chaired by Dame Julia Unwin, carry out their duties thoroughly, impartially, and transparently.

For each appointment undertaken by the panel, the Chair works with IPSO's Chair and Chief Executive to agree and implement an appropriate and proportionate process, from shortlisting to interviewing which is conducted by panel members.

This role will help shape IPSO's future. The successful candidate will understand the importance of IPSO reflecting the public it serves and appreciate the need to create a diverse and inclusive Board.

As a person of demonstrable independence and integrity, the lay members provide assurance to external stakeholders of IPSO's commitment to independence and impartiality.

## The role

### Essential criteria

Due to the nature of the role, the successful candidate may not have any connection to a publisher that is or could be regulated by IPSO. Nonetheless, it is essential that candidates are able to demonstrate:

- Insight (from a lay perspective) into the current financial, technical and cultural context of UK journalism;

- commitment to IPSO's role in upholding the highest editorial standards to protect the public and freedom of expression; and
- understanding of and commitment to the essential role of journalism and freedom of expression in society.

The successful candidate will also need:

- Experience of working at the highest level of public or commercial life;
- An unimpeachable reputation for personal integrity and independence;
- Experience of promoting accessibility and inclusion within an organisation;
- An understanding of the principles of good governance, and in particular the roles and responsibilities of board members;
- A practical understanding of how boards operate, and the make-up and skillset required for successful board members.
- An independent mindset and good judgment, with the ability to weigh up competing priorities and advocate effectively for their perspective;
- Experience in working on committees / bodies where the reconciliation of different views is required.

## Current members of the Panel:

### **Damie Julia Unwin (Chair)**

Dame Julia Unwin has extensive experience as a non-executive director at both commercial and third-sector organisations. She chairs the Board of Governors at York St John University and the Board of the Smart Data Foundry. She is a non-executive director at Yorkshire Water.

### **Jenny Watson CBE – Panel member designate**

In April, Jenny Watson CBE will succeed Lord Faulks KC as IPSO Chair and as a member of the panel.

Jenny is currently the deputy Chair of the University of East Anglia and Chair of the Broadland Housing Group. Formerly, she was chair of the Electoral Commission (2009–16) and the Independent Complaints Panel for the Portman Group (2013–20).

### **Geraldine Allinson OBE – Director of PA Media and Baylis Community Media**

Geraldine has worked within the news media industry at board level for most of her career. For 13 years she was executive Chairman of the KM Media Group. Geraldine is a Non-Executive Director of PA Media and Baylis Community Media.

She is a member of the Board of Trustees at Canterbury Cathedral and Patron of Heart of Kent Hospice.

**Chris Evans – Editor, The Daily Telegraph**

Chris Evans has been editor of The Telegraph since 2014. He was head of news at The Telegraph from 2007 to 2014. He previously worked at The Daily Mail (1995 – 2007) and at South West News Service in Bristol (1992 – 1995).

**Victor Olowe – Founder and Director, Winzest Consulting**

Victor Olowe is a governance consultant and a former Chief Executive of the Council for Licensed Conveyancers with expertise in professional regulation, consumer protection, risk management and governance issues. He is a non-executive Board director of the Independent Schools Inspectorate and Chair of the National Register of Public Service Interpreters. Victor has provided governance services to help organisations to improve board performance including facilitating board effectiveness/governance reviews.

## Time commitment and remuneration

- Duties arise when vacancies occur on the Board or Editors' Code of Practice Committee.
- Estimated time commitment: Estimated at 2 – 5 days per year
- Remuneration: £400 per half day

## How to apply

Please send a CV and covering letter outlining your suitability for the role, as set out in the role description, to: [recruitment@ipso.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@ipso.co.uk)

The deadline for applications is Sunday 12 April.