
MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held at Gate House, on Tuesday 20th June at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Lord Edward Faulks
Shrenik Davda
Charles Garside
Eddie Gray
Sarah Lee
Ian MacGregor
Michaela McAleer (*remotely*)
Brendan McGinty
Barry McIlheney
Kavita Reddi
Martin Trepte

Attending: Charlotte Dewar – Chief Executive Officer
John Davidson – Head of Communications
Jane Debois – Head of Standards
Alice Gould – Head of Complaints
Emily Houlston-Jones – Head of Complaints

Observing: Tom Glover, Senior Policy and Public Affairs Officer

1. Welcome and Apologies

There were no apologies received

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th May 2023 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report – oral

The Chairman noted that it was Alice Gould and Emily Houlston-Jones's first time attending the Board as joint Heads of Complaints and Pre-publication Services.

The Board congratulated Alice and Emily on their appointments.

He updated the Board on developments in the debate over online safety legislation.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive updated the Board on staffing matters and early developments in IPSO's approach to the rapid development and dissemination of artificial intelligence-enabled technologies. Board members discussed the potential implications of the spread of AI, including: the potential for an increased volume of complaints work; opportunities for IPSO to make efficiencies in its handling of complaints; impact on industry structure/roles; how this issue integrates with IPSO's broader role in digital literacy. The Board discussed opportunities to gather information on what publishers are already doing in the space and planning to do.

The Chief Executive confirmed that this issue would continue to be a priority for policy development.

7. Operations and performance report

The Head of Communications updated the Board on progress with the website development, brand refresh and database.

The Heads of Complaints noted recent staffing changes and progress with complaints of note. The Board was informed that it was expected that the Committee's decision on a large-scale complaint against The Sun would shortly be published.

The Head of Communications updated the Board on reaction to the publication of the Jeffrey review and changes to the political context.

The Head of Standards noted recent engagement activity, which covered a range of subject areas including suicide, intrusion into grief and shock, sexual offences, and reporting of social workers. She also provided an update on development of new guidance on suicide and due prominence in online media.

It was identified that the activity plan was not fully up to date; the Chief Executive confirmed that this would be addressed by the time of the next meeting.

8. Risk Report

The Chief Executive presented an updated risk register. She noted that it had been substantially revised in some areas, including the reclassification of two risks as “financial” rather than “change”. An additional risk had been added following comments by the Audit and Risk Committee in relation to IPSO’s access to funds held in online accounts, with relevant mitigation proposed.

The Board discussed risks and opportunities in IPSO’s strategic context.

9. Finance reports

The Chief Executive presented management accounts to April 2023.

10. Consultation responses

The Head of Standards and Regulation presented the results of the public consultation on draft Sex and Gender Identity guidance, including a summary of responses received for intended for publication, and a revised draft of the guidance taking into account feedback received.

The Board approved the summary and revised guidance for publication.

11. Brand presentation

The Head of Communications presented an update on the refreshed brand and a draft statement of IPSO’s brand proposition, including a proposed strapline for the new brand.

The Board commented on the brand proposition and discussed different ideas for straplines.

The Board agreed the proposed brand proposition and expressed its support for the work on the refreshed brand.

12. Office move planning

The Chief Executive outlined a proposed timeline for preparing for a possible move of premises, including an engagement strategy with staff and other stakeholders.

The Board discussed the proposed timeline and engagement strategy.

Board members noted further important considerations:

- Cybersecurity;
- Financial parameters;
- How staff will use the space;
- Taking into account that staff will turn over, so preferences now (especially in relation to location) may not persist.

13.Any other business

There was no other business.

14.Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 26^h September 2023.

Michelle Kuhler, PA to Chairman and CEO