

MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held on Wednesday 25 May 2016 at 10.30 a.m.
Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London EC4M 7LG

Present: Sir Alan Moses (Chairman)
Rick Hill
Trevor Kavanagh (**Items 9-14**)
Anne Lapping
Sir Martyn Lewis
Charles McGhee
Mehmuda Mian
Ruth Sawtell

Attending: Elizabeth Bardin – Executive Assistant to Chairman (**Items 9-14**)
Niall Duffy – Director of External Affairs
Ben Gallop – Head of Complaints
Michelle Kuhler – PA to CEO – minute taker
Bianca Strohmman – Head of Complaints
Matt Tee - Chief Executive
Charlotte Urwin – Head of Standards

Observing: Lara Fielden, Complaints Committee Member

1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies for absence were received from Charles Wilson, Keith Perch and Richard Reed.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 April 2016 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

Breakfast Event Invitation

The Invitation due to be received by Board members for the Breakfast event here at IPSO in June had not yet been received. Ben Gallop, Head of Complaints apologised for the oversight and informed the Board that this would be distributed following the meeting.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman spoke of the sad passing of Kevin Hand, noting that he had been a remarkable man. He said that condolences had been sent to the family on behalf of IPSO.

The Chairman updated the Board on recent events; He mentioned his Lecture, and thanked all that attended to support him. The lecture can be found online if anyone that could not attend would like to read this.

He mentioned the round table session of the All Party Group on Religious Literacy in the Media, which he attended and found very interesting.

The Chairman confirmed to the Board that the first Liaison Committee meeting had been held, this underlined the importance of not only looking at our work as a regulator but as a resource to educate editors and journalists.

The Chairman concluded by mentioning that the Independent External Review of IPSO will take a little longer than originally expected and should now be completed by early autumn.

6. Chief Executives Report

The Chief Executive introduced his report.

The Chief Executive gave an overview on his recent trip to Australia for the 40th Press Anniversary. He also gave the Board an update on the applications received for the advisory panel positions advertised.

7. Director of External Affairs Report

The Director of External Affairs provided an update on progress on the new website, and expressed his disappointment that this was still not live. He informed the board that he hoped it would go live this week.

He update the Board on amendments to the grid, informing them that, given the development of IPSO, the 'State of the Nation' event had now been reconsidered and would be replaced with other activities. Plans for a Roadshow in Birmingham were coming along well.

The Board noted the report and grid.

8. Complaints Report

Bianca Strohmann, Joint Head of Complaints, introduced the report and invited the Board to discuss the quarterly report, and reports on complaints performance.

A Board member recommended that the KPIs are revisited. Ben Gallop, Joint Head of Complaints informed the board that he was already working on an analysis of the complaints data to get a clear picture of what the time spent on a complaint went on and the degree to which IPSO had control of it.

The Chief Executive suggested to the Board that this analysis, with a proposal for changing the KPIs, would come to the Board in September.

9. Finance and Performance Report

The Chief Executive introduced the reports.

9.4 Performance Report

The Chief Executive took the Board through the report providing an explanation for the Board on the areas on the report where there had been movement.

9.5 Risk Register

A Board member requested that the layout of the register in future be in order of Risk the highest being at the Top, this would enable the top five to be easily identified.

The Board noted the report.

10. Draft Accounts and Audit Report

10.1 Draft Accounts

The Chief Executive introduced the Draft Accounts, he explained how the accounts need some small additional amendments, including the tax position. The auditors have stipulated the IPSO need a formal agreement with the RFC on the loan before the accounts can be formally signed off.

Resolved: The Board gave approval for the draft accounts in principal.

Action: The Chief Executive is to recirculate the draft accounts once the final amendments have been confirmed and made.

10.2 Audit Report

The Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee, Rick Hill, introduced the Audit Report. He gave an overview on the auditors and findings so far, aside from the Tax, Loan and Funding agreements said that the accounts were tidy and that financial affairs had been managed well over the last year.

He concluded by informing the Board that the Audit & Risk Committee were content to recommend the approval of the accounts and management accounts to the Board.

11. Failure to comply with the Scheme Membership Agreement

The Head of Standards introduced the report, explaining that two small publishers had failed to submit an annual statement, despite many efforts to communicate the need for this to them. The Board suggested that the Executive have a last attempt through informal routes, but agreed that if the annual statements were not forthcoming within 30 days their IPSO membership should be terminated.

Resolved: The Board agreed with the recommendation from the Executive.

12. IPSO Jurisdiction and Mail Online

The Chief Executive introduced the item, explaining that IPSO was handling a complaint about an article on Mail Online. Mail Online disputed IPSO's view that the article fell within IPSO's jurisdiction.

The Board reasserted its view that IPSO had jurisdiction, but also expressed a concern that the current interpretation of jurisdiction was increasingly untenable, given the development of global digital publishers.

The Board asked the Chief Executive to consider how IPSO might move to a view of jurisdiction over digital content that better reflected developments since IPSO was created.

Resolved: To continue to current complaint and to ask the Chief Executive to consider future changes.

The Board adjourned for 10 minutes

13. Transgender Guidance

The Head of Standards introduced the guidance and gave an overview of how the guidance came together.

The Board agreed the guidance.

14. Personal Pronouns

The Chairman introduced the item. A complainant had asked IPSO to use a non-standard pronoun in the adjudication on her complaint. The Chairman felt that it was important that IPSO had a policy on this matter, rather than making case by case decisions.

The Board were asked to approve a policy on this issue, to be incorporated into the Complaints procedure.

The Board felt it was inappropriate for a regulator to use non-standard personal pronouns and decided that, in cases where a complainant was not happy with the use of a standard pronoun, the phrase 'the complainant' should be used throughout.

15. Arbitration

The Board noted the update regarding the implementation of the IPSO Pilot Arbitration Scheme.

16. Briefing paper: Changes to IPSO's Regulations

The Board noted the briefing paper.

17. Any other business

A member of the Board raised a concern regarding a particular article in a newspaper, about which IPSO had not received a complaint. The Chief Executive said that IPSO had been in touch with some of the parties concerned and the subject of the story was aware of IPSO and its powers. The Board asked the Chief Executive to continue to monitor the situation.

18. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 6 July 2016 at 10.30am

The meeting finished at 1pm

**Michelle Kuhler
PA to CEO
26 May 2016**