
MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held on Wednesday 27 February 2019 at 10.30 a.m.
Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG

Present: Sir Alan Moses (Chairman)
Rick Hill
Anne Lapping
Matthew Lohn
Ian MacGregor
Charles McGhee
Mehmuda Mian
Claire Singers
Martin Trepte
Charlie Wilson

Attending: Charlotte Dewar – Director of Operations
Vikki Julian – Communications Manager
Michelle Kuhler – PA/minute taker
Bianca Strohmann – Head of Complaints
Matt Tee – Chief Executive
Charlotte Urwin – Head of Standards

1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Mike Soutar and Ruth Sawtell.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 December 2018 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report – oral

The Chairman welcomed the new Board members, Matthew Lohn and Martin Trepte. He informed the Board that Charlotte Dewar will be on maternity leave from the end of the week, and extended the Board's best wishes to her.

He updated the Board on recent meetings he had held with Jackie Doyle-Price, The Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention and with the RFC in relation to the progress on funding for the next five years.

He handed over to the Chief Executive in relation to the Cairncross report, he informed the Board that there was very little mention of IPSO specifically, but a regulator is referred to. He had been in touch with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to arrange to meet to discuss the recommendations.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive introduced his report. He asked the Board to confirm the decisions made between meetings. The Board agreed to the Remuneration Committee's recommendations with regards to the staff pay rise, staff bonuses, maternity pay and pension contributions. The Board also agreed to the lease for the office.

He brought the Board up to date with progress on Global Digital Publishers, the new Chairman recruitment and the Home Affairs Select Committee.

The Board approved the proposal for a change to Clause 11 of the Editors' Code of Conduct (Victims of sexual assault).

Finally he informed the Board about the number of complaints received in 2018. He said that further analysis of complaints numbers would be brought to a future Board meeting.

The Board noted the report.

7. Operations Report

The Director of Operations introduced her report. She updated the Board on the recent new publisher members that IPSO had signed up.

She informed the Board that the University of Sheffield research into standards of complaints handling would be published once finalised, alongside a report from IPSO responding to the findings. She confirmed the final research report and response from IPSO would be circulated to the Board before they are published.

The Head of Standards informed the Board that there would also be a report to the Board about lessons from the commissioning and research progress that will feed into subsequent research projects.

The Director of Operations finished by updating the Board on the research into editorial standards in transgender matters. IPSO had received tender responses from two well-regarded companies. The Executive is in the process of reviewing the tender responses to identify a preferred research company for undertaking

the research. The Board would then be asked to approve the decision to appoint the research company.

The Board noted the report.

8. Complaints Report

The Head of Complaints introduced the report. She took questions from Board members.

The Board noted the report.

9. External Affairs Report

The Communications Manager introduced her report. She highlighted the Parliamentary newsletter targeted by region that IPSO was distributing.

The Board noted the report.

10. Finance, performance report and risk management

The Chief Executive introduced the reports.

He informed the Board that the 2018 year end deficit was £10k. The cash balance for the end of the year was £190k and IPSO ended the year with a positive balance sheet.

For 2019 he informed the Board that the funding had increased by 2.1% in line with CPI and the budget agreed will be reflected in the reports for April's Board meeting.

The Chief Executive finished by going through the Performance Report for 2018 and introduced the performance measures for 2019.

The Board noted the reports.

11. IPSO Funding 2020-2024

The Chief Executive updated the Board on progress to date in relation to negotiating the 2020-2024 funding settlement. A final submission would be submitted to the RFC Board meeting on 11 March, where representatives from IPSO, the Chairman, Chief Executive and Mike Soutar would attend.

The Board noted the report.

12. Complaint analysis for 2018

The Head of Standards introduced the analysis report. She informed the Board that this annual paper is brought together from the reports that are produced and presented to the Liaison Committee on a quarterly basis. The report brings together the key findings to inform the Board of the most serious themes, along with actions taken by the Executive to address concerns.

She reminded the Board that they all have access to the quarterly reports via the Board Intelligence system.

The Board noted the report.

13. Liaison Committee Meeting 21 November Minutes

The Board note the minutes.

14. Any other business

There was no other business.

15. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 10 April 2019.

16. Staff survey

All IPSO staff left the room for this item. The Chief Executive presented the staff survey to the Board and presented an action plan.

The Board noted the report.

Michelle Kuhler
PA to Chairman and CEO