
MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held on Wednesday 26 June 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
Ruth Sawtell (*Items 6 to 17*)
Mike Soutar
Claire Singers
Martin Trepte
Charlie Wilson

Attending: Jonathan Grun, Editors Code (*Item 13*)
Vikki Julian – Communications Manager
Michelle Kuhler – PA/minute taker
Lauren Sloan – Joint Head of Complaints
Matt Tee – Chief Executive
Charlotte Urwin – Head of Standards
Peter Wright, DMG Media (*Item 13*)

Observer: David Hutton, Complaint Committee Member

1. Apologies and Welcome

There were no apologies. The Chairman welcomed David Hutton to the meeting.

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 April 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report – oral

The Chairman updated the Board on recent events, including the IPSO Lecture, the Sheffield Road Show and the International News Media Conference in Glasgow.

He also updated the Board on meetings held with Chi Onwurah MP and a group of Labour MPs in relation to Clause 12.

6. Chief Executive's Report - oral

The Chief Executive updated the Board regarding the judicial review from 2018. IPSO had received the final payment of costs owing and the matter was now closed.

He updated the Board on the progress of recruitment for the new Chairman, advising Board members that the Appointments Panel hoped to have the new Chairman appointed by the end of July.

7. Complaints Report

Lauren Sloan, Joint Head of Complaints, introduced the report and took questions from Board members.

The Board noted the report.

8. External Affairs Report

The Communications Manager introduced her report flagging up in particular meetings held, polling results and the agreed cover and first few drafts pages of the IPSO 2018 annual report. A member of the Board asked for a country-specific breakdown to be included on the polling stats for future.

The Board noted the report.

9. Standards Report

The Head of Standards introduced her report and highlighted two key developments in relation to the Standards function.

The annual statements by members for 2018 were due by 10 May, and 85% were submitted on time. This meant that the 80% target was achieved, which was a slight increase on the number received on time last year. She informed the Board that work to chase the outstanding statements had begun.

Mediatique, who had been commissioned by IPSO to undertake the research into editorial standards in transgender coverage, had started work on the project in mid-May. It was expected that IPSO would receive a draft of Mediatique's report in mid-August and the Board would be kept updated.

The Board noted the report

10. Finance, performance report and risk management

The Chief Executive introduced the reports. He updated the Board on the surplus for the month and took the Board through the variances against budget, which were mainly small.

For the Performance report, IPSO was on target with most performance objectives. Those that were amber reflected a potential risk, but none of these had been realised yet.

He finished by updating the Board on the changes IPSO had made to the Risk Register, where a number of information security risks had been added.

The Board noted the reports.

11. Financial forecast 2019

The Chief Executive introduced the financial forecast for the remainder of 2019. He informed the Board that as part of discussions on IPSO's finances at the end of last year, IPSO had agreed to give the RFC a forecast for the remainder of the year at the end of each quarter.

The Board noted the forecast.

12. IPSO Funding 2020-2024

The Chief Executive informed the Board that since the last Board meeting IPSO has finalised discussion with the RFC on funding for the next contract period.

The Board formally agreed the proposal in the funding letter and the revised loan agreement.

13. Global digital publishers

The Chief Executive introduced the paper. The Board had been updated at the last meeting on progress in trying to agree a change to the regulations for 'global digital publishers'. He brought the Board up to date on progress.

The latest iteration of the regulation change on Global Digital Publishers had been accepted by the industry. There was an ongoing discussion about whether the scope should cover Clause 5 (Reporting suicide).

Jonathan Grun and Peter Wright addressed the Board on the issue of Clause 5. The Board agreed that Clause 5 issues with regard to foreign online content should be closely monitored.

The Board agreed that the publishers that had applied to be considered as Global Digital Publishers – Reach, DMG and the Telegraph group – met the proposed criteria and would qualify. The Board reserved the right to reconsider this issue in a year's time.

14. Online harms consultation response

The Head of Standards introduced the paper. The response had been put together with input and feedback from members of the Board and Committee.

The Board agreed the draft.

15. Report on the Liaison Committee meeting

The Board noted the report and minutes from the Liaison Committee meeting 14 May 2019.

16. Any other business

There was no other business.

17. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 25th September.

Michelle Kuhler
PA to Chairman and CEO