
MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held on Tuesday 25 February 2020 at 10.30 a.m.
Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG

Present: Lord Edward Faulks (Chairman)
Rick Hill
Anne Lapping
Ian MacGregor
Charles McGhee
Barry McIlheney
Mehmuda Mian
Ruth Sawtell
Claire Singers
Martin Trepte
Charlie Wilson

Attending: Charlotte Dewar – Acting Chief Executive
Vikki Julian – Communications Manager
Michelle Kuhler – PA/minute taker
Holly Pick – Joint Head of Complaints

Observer:

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed IPSO's new Board member Barry McIlheney.

Apologies were received from Mathew Lohn.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 December 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record.

The Chairman updated the Board members on why the guidance on reporting on Islam and Muslims was not on the agenda and that it would be brought to the next Board meeting.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report - oral

The Chairman began updated the Board on recent events, including the Society of Editors 100th anniversary event, the House of Lords debate on the Government's response to the Cairncross review and his visits to The Telegraph, Daily Mail, Sunday Mail, the Evening Standard, JPI Media and the NMA board meeting.

The Chairman updated the Board on staff recruitment. He noted that IPSO was currently recruiting a new Complaints Officer and Head of Standards.

He finished by registering his thanks for all the help he had received from staff, Board and Complaints Committee during his transition into the role.

6. Chief Executive's Report

Charlotte Dewar, Acting Chief Executive, introduced the report, which reviewed internal and external developments.

The Chairman confirmed that he had written to both the new Secretary of State for DCMS, Oliver Dowden MP, and the Minister of State, John Whittingdale MP, asking for meetings.

The Board noted the report.

7. Operations Report

Charlotte Dewar, Acting Chief Executive, introduced her report.

She updated the Board on plans to improve IPSO's line management, which included internal and external training, and the introduction of clearer standards to help managers and their direct reports understand what they should expect. She noted that IPSO would be introducing quarterly surveys to check how progress against the benchmarks and more generally the quality of management.

Charlotte informed the Board that IPSO would write to publishers within the next few days to notify them that the deadline for 2019 annual statements would be 22 April 2020.

The Board approved new guidance for annual statements.

She finished by updating the Board of contingency plans in place in the event that IPSO should have to close the office due to coronavirus.

8. Complaints Report

Holly Pick, Joint Head of Complaints, introduced the report. She explained to the Board that some investigations were taking longer because of staff shortages. The Board discussed staffing issues within the team.

The Board noted the report.

9. External Affairs Report

The Communications Manager introduced her report, updating the Board on recent activities, including the ongoing work on building relations with police forces surrounding major incidents and IPSO's relationship with the British Red Cross.

She highlighted front-page coverage of IPSO in The Times and Financial Times, both profile pieces of Sir Alan Moses.

She finished by announcing that Hanno Fenech had been promoted to Communications and Public Affairs Officer.

The Board noted the report.

10. Finance, performance report and risk management

The Acting Chief Executive introduced the Finance report highlighting the key points to the Board.

The Board asked the Acting Chief Executive to examine an apparent discrepancy in the variances shown. She agreed to report back to the Board.

She finished by informing the Board that over the next few months that she would be looking to refresh the Performance and Risk reports. If any of the Board had any suggestions, she would welcome them.

The Board noted the reports.

11. Consultation on the Editors' Code of Practice

The Board agreed that PSO should make a supportive submission to the Editors' Code of Practice as part of the review process but should not suggest any changes at this time, pending any input from the Complaints Committee, who would discuss the matter at its next meeting.

12. Report of the Liaison Committee Meeting 4 February 2020

The Board noted the report and minutes from the Liaison Committee meeting 4 February 2020.

13. Confidential agenda item

All IPSO staff left the meeting for this item.

14. Any other business

There was no other business.

15. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 7th April.

Michelle Kuhler
PA to Chairman and CEO