
MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held at Gate House, on Tuesday 26th July at 10.30 a.m.

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

Attending: Charlotte Dewar – Chief Executive Officer (*remotely*)
Jane Debois – Head of Standards and Regulations (*remotely*)
Vikki Julian – Head of Communications
Michelle Kuhler – PA/minute taker (*remotely*)
Tonia Milton – Head of Systems
Robert Morrison – Head of Complaints
Simon Terrington, Strategy Consultant (Item 11)
Jeremy Olivier, Strategy Consultant (Item 11)

1. Welcome and Apologies

No apologies were 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 7th June 2022 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report – oral

The Chairman commented on changes in the political landscape.

He noted that this was the last Board meeting for Vikki Julian as IPSO's Head of Communications. He paid tribute to her as a great asset to the organisation and tremendous support to all its staff during her years at IPSO. He offered his congratulations to her on her new role and his thanks on behalf of the Board for her contribution.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the appointment of IPSO's new Head of Communications, John Davidson. She thanked those involved in the recruitment process for their support and gave the Board an overview of his background.

The Chief Executive updated the Board on progress with the commissioning of an External Review of IPSO.

The Chief Executive notified the Board of good progress on the development of a new complaints database project. She noted that preparatory work was complete for projects to refresh the website and brand, which would resume after the transition of Head of Communications.

7. Operations and performance report

The Head of Complaints updated the Board on complaints operations matters and complaints of note.

He updated the Board on the progress of his review of prioritisation within the complaints process. A discussion paper would be going to the next Liaison Committee meeting, and an update would be brought to the Board at a later date.

The Head of Communications noted that, following the resignation of the Prime Minister, online safety legislation had been "paused" until the appointment of his successor.

The Head of Standards and Regulation updated the Board on the refresh of IPSO's guidance on trans issues.

The Head of Standards and Regulation updated the Board on standards monitoring and engagement efforts, including visits to a conference convened by Women's Aid and journalists at the Maidenhead Advertiser.

The Head of Complaints, Head of Standards and Regulation, and Head of Communications took questions, comments and suggestions from the Board.

8. Risk Report

The Chief Executive introduced the Risk report, highlighting changes in the political and policy context.

The Chief Executive took comments from the Board members.

9. Finance reports

The Chief Executive presented updated management accounts. She noted that accounts were affected by the postponement of big projects to later in the year due to the transition of Head of Communications.

She informed the Board that she had obtained confirmation of the expiration of IPSO's leasehold.

The Chief Executive took questions from the Board members.

10. Draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

Claire Singers, Chair of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, introduced the strategy. She explained the various inputs into the strategy and plans for the follow up actions.

The Chief Executive explained further work that would be conducted on implementation following this discussion.

The Chair took questions, suggestions and comments from the Board members. Board members emphasised the importance of clear and well-structured implementation, including measurement of success. It should be tied into the broader organisational strategy. One Board member suggested that digital inclusion should be included as an issue.

The Board approved the draft strategy.

11. Draft Five-year Strategy

The Chief Executive introduced Simon Terrington and Jeremy Olivier of Dot Vector who had supported the strategy development process and thanked them for their contributions.

The Board received a presentation on the strategy development process and its findings, including feedback obtained through the external and

internal engagement process, and analysis of key trends, opportunities and risks.

The Chief Executive presented to the Board a new organisational purpose; vision; strategic priorities and enabling priorities.

The Chief Executive informed the Board that, subject to the Board's approval of the draft, the next step would be to conduct further work on implementation of the strategy.

The Consultants and Chief Executive took questions, suggestions and comments from the Board, including the addition of policymakers among key stakeholders.

The Board approved the draft strategy.

12. Confidential item

All IPSO staff left the room.

13. Any other business

There was no other business.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th September 2022.

Michelle Kuhler, PA to Chairman and CEO