
MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING
Held at Gate House, on Tuesday 16th April at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Lord Edward Faulks
Karen Barnes
Matt Brown
Eddie Gray
Sarah Lee
Ian MacGregor
Michaela McAleer (remotely)
Brendan McGinty
Kavita Reddi
Martin Trepte

Attending: Charlotte Dewar – Chief Executive Officer
John Davidson, Head of Communications
Alice Gould – Head of Complaints
Emily Houlston-Jones – Head of Complaints
Michelle Kuhler – PA and minute take (remotely)

Observing:

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed Karen Barnes to the Board.

Apologies were received from Charles Garside and Shrenik Davda.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 March 2024 were approved subject to a minor amendment in the risk report.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report – oral

The Chairman gave an update on the progress of legislation relevant to IPSO.

He updated the Board on recent events in Parliament.

The Board noted the updates.

6. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive updated the Board on recent recruitment.

The Board were invited to approve formally the appointment of Karen Barnes to the Board.

The Board were informed that Carwyn Jones had been appointed to the Complaints Committee and would be joining in May. Sarah Havlin will be joining later in the year.

A new Complaints Officer, Sophie Thomsett, would join the team at the end of April.

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the progression of contract renewal negotiations to date and took questions from the Board.

The Board formally confirmed Karen Barnes appointment and welcomed her to the Board.

The Board noted the update.

7. Operations and performance report

The Heads of Complaints drew to the Board's attention to improved statistics on timeliness of complaints investigation for the year so far.

The Head of Communications updated the Board on progress with the first of the regional tours that IPSO has planned this year.

The Board were informed that Alice Gould was to testify on behalf of IPSO to the Women & Equalities Select Committee on the issue of ageism in the media.

The Heads of Complaints and Head of Communications took suggestions and comments from the Board.

8. Risk Report

The Chief Executive introduced the report, and in the absence of the Head of Systems, she updated the Board on matters relating to IPSO's data infrastructure.

She noted that an important area of focus for the year would be managing costs of the move.

The Chief Executive took questions and comments from the Board.

The Board noted the updated risk register.

9. Finance reports

The Chief Executive introduced updated management accounts.

The Board noted the finance reports.

10. Draft 2023 Accounts and audit findings report

The Chief Executive presented to the Board the draft 2023 accounts and audit findings report.

The Board was invited to approve the 2023 accounts subject to the confirmation of a new long-term funding settlement, and to ask the Audit and Risk Committee to agree a final going-concern statement and formal final approval of the accounts, once the funding settlement is agreed.

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee commented on behalf of the Committee on this proposal.

The Board approved the draft 2023 accounts, with the exception of the going-concern statement. It agreed to delegate to the Audit and Risk Committee approval of the going-concern statement once the settlement had been agreed.

The Chief Executive noted that the audit findings report contained several recommendations, which would be implemented.

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee congratulated the Chief Executive and her team on the audit findings report, including the action taken on previous recommendations.

11.Update: Website redevelopment & brand refresh

The Head of Communications presented an update on the website redevelopment and brand refresh to the Board.

The Head of Communications took questions and comments from the Board.

12.Confidential item: Staff diversity monitoring results

The Chief Executive presented to the Board the findings of the staff diversity monitoring. She praised the high rates of participation and noted that as a next step, the programme would be extended to the Board, Complaints Committee and Appointment Panel.

13.Any other business

There was no other business.

14.Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 18th June 2024.

Michelle Kuhler, PA to Chairman and CEO