

**From:** Owen Meredith <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** 28 September 2017 at 08:54:37 BST  
**To:** 'Susie Uppal' <[suppal@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk](mailto:suppal@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Impress Directors and PRP recognition process

Dear Susie,

I note that yesterday IMPRESS published an internal report (dated May 2017) in the footnotes of a press release headline "IMPRESS is Growing Fast, with Publishers Reaching 4.5 Million Monthly Readers."

As you will recall from previous correspondence, PPA members have major concerns about the PRP decision to recognise IMPRESS. The vast majority of magazine publishers have chosen to be regulated by IPSO as a self-regulatory system funded by the industry and would not consider joining IMPRESS in its current form, notably without a workable Editorial Code, serious questions over its funding and a compulsory arbitration system that exposes them to great costs regardless of the outcome.

It is therefore all the more concerning to see that this report concurs with the serious questions we raised with you about senior figures in IMPRESS and their attitude and intentions towards the press they are apparently seeking to regulate.

We note specifically that the report finds:

- PRP has indicated it believes there has been a serious breach of recognition Criterion 23 which states: 2 "The membership of a regulatory body should be open to all publishers on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms, including making membership potentially available on different terms for different types of publisher"
- breaches of IMPRESS' internal standards by two members of the IMPRESS Board. These breaches raise serious issues regarding compliance with Criterion 23.
- a fair-minded and informed observer, having considered the facts, would conclude that there was a real possibility of those Board members who share views on twitter and in other forums were biased in relation to their IMPRESS decision-making functions were particular publishers to seek and/or secure membership of IMPRESS' regulatory scheme.
- breaches of IMPRESS' internal standards by Jonathan Heawood as IMPRESS' Chief Executive ('CEO'). Mr Heawood has taken responsibility and apologised for the risk and standards breaches identified.
- Jonathan Heawood has breached the Guidelines by sharing a pattern of material over

a short period of time in the form of 19 retweets, which make generalized criticism of the Daily Mail and of The Sun and which showed support for the Stop Funding Hate campaign

- Emma Jones, Máire Messenger Davies and Jonathan Heawood have all breached IMPRESS' internal standards.
- the PRP is right to indicate this raises serious issues about IMPRESS' compliance with Criterion 23 for recognition under the Royal Charter for self-regulation of the press.

In light of this report, I would be grateful for an update on your risk assessment, the process of adhoc review of IMPRESS' recognition, and whether the PRP now intends to undertake a review.

Regards,

Owen

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DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**The Professional Publishers Association**

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