

Mappin House
4, Winsley Street
London
W1W 8HF

6 April 2016

(by email only)

Dear Mr

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – OUR REF FOI0003

Thank you for your request for information received on 2 April 2016, which has been dealt with under the terms of the PRP's Freedom of Information (FOI) policy. You asked for the following information:

1. Information regarding remuneration of each Board Member, and who meets the cost of that remuneration;
2. The annual running costs of the PRP, and what proportion of that cost is met from the public purse; and
3. How many publications to date have volunteered to be included in the Charter scheme.

Board Member remuneration

The Royal Charter gives the Board of the PRP the power to set the remuneration of the Chair and other Board Members (at Schedule 1, para 5.3). At its meeting on 18 December 2014¹, the Board considered an analysis prepared by an external agency of pay rates across public bodies to assist it in setting the rates payable. The rates agreed were as follows:

- rate payable to the Chair of the Panel of £30,000 per annum, for an expected time commitment of 60 days annually;
- rate payable to Board Members of £6,000² per annum, for an expected time commitment of 20 days annually.

¹ Papers for the meeting are available on our website: http://pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/AGENDA-Board-meeting-18-Dec-2014_MERGED.pdf

² At its meeting on 30 June 2015, the Board agreed to constitute an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), to be chaired by Board Member Harry Rich who would be paid additional remuneration of £1,500 annually to reflect the duties he would incur as ARC Chair.

The rates are reviewed annually, having regard to any changes in prevailing rates payable to members of boards of public sector bodies. The last review of rates was undertaken in November 2015³, and the Board agreed to continue the rates that were agreed in December 2014.

Board Member remuneration costs are met from our Exchequer grant and are reported in our Annual Report and Accounts. Our first annual report is available on our website here (our second report will be published in July 2016):

<http://pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/PRP-2014-15-Annual-Report-FINAL2.pdf>

Annual running costs of the PRP

In relation to your second question, I can confirm that the PRP is financed by a £3m grant from the Exchequer, sufficient to enable the PRP to commence its operations and fulfil its purpose for the first three years of operation. As the sum is an Exchequer grant, the full sum of £3m derives from the public purse.

Charter scheme

By way of background, the PRP opened for applications from press regulators on 10 September 2015. I can confirm that there are currently no press regulators that have been recognised as meeting the Royal Charter criteria for recognition, and therefore no publications which can be said to be included in the Charter scheme (individual publications cannot sign up to the scheme, only regulators). However, we have received one application, from a regulator called IMPRESS. You can read IMPRESS's application on our website, and details of the publications signed up to IMPRESS, here:

<http://pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk/prp-call-for-information-impresents-application-for-recognition/> .

As you will see, a 'call for information' closed on 4 March and IMPRESS are currently in the process of responding to any of the points raised by third parties. We will then validate and verify IMPRESS's application along with any additional information received. This will be followed by a meeting of the PRP Board, who will make the final decision on whether or not the application meets the requirements of the Charter. This meeting will be open to the public.

I hope this response is helpful but if you are dissatisfied with this response, you should refer to the complaints procedure as set out in our FOI policy, which is available on our website [here](#). As the PRP is not subject to the Act, I should advise you that there is no right of complaint to the Information Commissioner.

³ Papers for the meeting are available on our website: <http://pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/AGENDA-Board-meeting-18-November-MERGED-PUBLIC.pdf>

Yours sincerely

Holly Perry
Head of Governance
Press Recognition Panel