

THE INDEPENDENT PRESS REGULATION TRUST  
9 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3QN

26th April 2016

Jonathan Heawood  
Chief Executive Officer  
IMPRESS  
83 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0HW

Dear Jonathan,

**IMPRESS – Application for Recognition**

Thank you for providing us with copies of the submissions made to the Press Recognition Panel (PRP) in response to its recent call for information regarding your application for recognition.

In light of certain misinformed assumptions and/or comments contained in a number of these responses, the trustees of the Independent Press Regulation Trust (the IPRT) wish to clarify the following in the hope that this of assistance to you and the PRP in the determination of your application:-

**Funding Agreement**

We believe that the terms of our Funding Agreement dated 30th October 2015 (the Agreement), when read carefully in its entirety, demonstrates the true nature and extent of the relationship between the trustees of the IPRT and IMPRESS. Under the Agreement, the IPRT does not and cannot have any control or influence over the day to day operation of IMPRESS or its strategic/policy decisions made by its board of directors. As is customary with all grant making charities, the IPRT merely requires IMPRESS to account for its expenditure of the funding provided in accordance with the terms of Clause 4 of the Agreement.

The limited circumstances in which funding to IMPRESS may be terminated or reduced are set out under Clause 3.2 of the Agreement. It has been suggested that funding from the IPRT could be withheld in the event that IMPRESS were to make a regulatory decision that the trustees of the IPRT do not agree with. This is not correct and nor is such a situation prescribed under Clause 3.2.

As you and your colleagues are aware, by supporting IMPRESS in its application for Royal Charter Status, our focus as trustees of the IPRT is in furthering the charitable objects of the charity which for the avoidance of doubt, are recited in paragraph (B) of the Agreement.

## Independence

We also note the suggestions made in relation to the independence of our respective entities. It is clear from reference to Clause 6.1 of the Agreement that the integrity and independence of IMPRESS is of paramount importance in relation to our funding arrangement. As you are aware, this clause exists to preserve these important principles for the duration of the funding period.

Whilst it is correct that the IPRT receives substantial funding from the Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust (the AMCT), which in turn the trustees have decided at their discretion to apply in support of IMPRESS, the IPRT is a wholly independently run charity to that of the AMCT. In our funding agreement with the AMCT, the trustees have been very careful to ensure that our independence and discretion in the application of any funding is and remains unfettered. In the interests of openness and transparency, the trustees and I are willing to disclose a copy of our funding agreement with the AMCT (with their consent) which we are happy for you to disclose to the PRP as part of any further submission if you or the PRP consider this to be helpful.

You may wish to note that the trustees recently exchanged correspondence with an organisation called 89up. In the interests of completeness, I enclose a copy of their letter of 17th February 2016 together with our reply of 4th March 2016 for your information.

Yours sincerely,

  
Wilfrid Fernor-Miles

Encs Letter dated 17.02.16  
Letter dated 04.03.16



89up.org  
12 TILEYARD, LONDON N7 9AH

The Trustees of the IPRT  
c/o Mr Wilfrid Vernor-Miles  
Hunters  
9 New Square  
London  
WC2A 3QN

Dear Sirs

**The Independent Press Regulation Trust ('IPRT') & IMPRESS**

We write as consultants to the Free Speech Network in connection with the IPRT's funding of IMPRESS – the details of which are relevant to IMPRESS's application to the Press Recognition Panel ('PRP') to become a recognised press regulator.

We note that the Funding Agreement the IPRT signed with IMPRESS is dated 30 October 2015.

We would be grateful if you would answer the following questions, in the interests of transparency:

1. Where has or will the income of the IPRT, which will amount to over £950,000 per year for the next four years, come from?
2. What are, or will be, the conditions of the IPRT receiving that funding?
3. What discussions did the Trustees have when deciding to accept funding, and in turn to fund IMPRESS? Please could we have copies of the minutes of board meetings where such decisions were discussed and made?
4. What are the expected administration costs of the IPRT?
5. Does the IPRT pay any staff directly for its administration; if so whom?
6. Does the IPRT make any payments to any external bodies to undertake its administration; if so whom?

We note that your Charitable Objects include, 'having regard to the need to act within the law and to protect both the privacy of individuals and freedom of expression'. We therefore eagerly anticipate your assistance in this matter.

As you will be aware, the deadline for comments to the PRP is Friday, 4 March 2016, so we would be grateful for an answer to our questions within fourteen days.

Yours faithfully,

  
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Mike Harris & Sashy Nathan, 89up



Helen Anthony (Legal Policy Consultant)

Freedom of expression consultants to the Free Speech Network and authors of *Leveson's Illiberal Legacy*

THE INDEPENDENT PRESS REGULATION TRUST  
9 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3QN

4th March 2016

Mike Harris & Others  
89up  
12 Tileyard  
London  
N7 9AH

Dear Sirs,

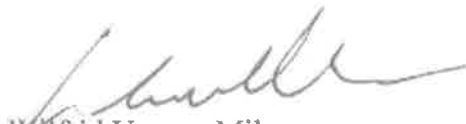
**The Independent Press Regulation Trust**

Thank you for your letter of 17th February 2016. The Trustees consider it helpful for you and your clients to be aware of the following information, namely:-

We anticipate the income of The Independent Press Regulation Trust (IPRT) will come from donations made by likeminded individuals, and other organisations including charitable bodies, who value and support the important work of the IPRT. All donations are considered and (if suitable) accepted by the Trustees only in accordance with established Charity Commission guidance. The independence of the IPRT is of paramount importance and the Trustees do not and will not accept any donation or funding which they consider may either have the effect of fettering their discretion or is not judged to be in the best interest of the IPRT. As a matter of policy, the deliberations of the Trustees are confidential.

The IPRT does not employ external bodies or staff to administer the work of the charity. This is undertaken by the Trustees, who, as is customary, serve on a voluntary basis without remuneration. Details of the IPRT's expenditure will be available to view on the Register of Charities in due course following the submission of the IPRT's annual account.

Yours faithfully,



Wilfrid Vernor-Miles  
for and on behalf of the Trustees of  
The Independent Press Regulation Trust