



PRESS RECOGNITION PANEL BOARD

PRP BOARD DETERMINATION ON THE IMPRESS APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION

Meeting: 25 October 2016

Status: for decision

Lead responsibility: Susie Uppal,
Chief Executive

Contact details: Simon Edward,
Regulatory Affairs Manager; Caroline
Roberts, Head of Regulatory Affairs;
Patrick Reeve, Applications Manager

Purpose

1. At the 23 August 2016 Board meeting, the Board agreed to defer a determination on the IMPRESS application until the completion of a third call for information. The Board agreed that a resubmission of the documents already received was not required for any future meeting. Instead, they would prefer a supplement to the August assessment report dealing with any additional matters raised in the third call for information.
2. The Executive have prepared the supplement to the August report as requested by the Board (annex A) and, bearing in mind the Board's wishes, have limited the updating of documents. We have updated the contents page of the assessment report so it now covers both the August report and the supplement (annex B), the additional briefing notes provided to the Board on the Board's indicative view on preliminary and wider, non-application, issues (annex C) and have provided (at annex D) a list of all the documents which the Board should have access to by way of a checklist.
3. This paper invites the Board to:
 - **note** the logistical and practical arrangements for the determination Board meeting
 - **consider** the Executive Assessment Report dated 4 August 2016, the supplement dated 6 October 2016 and the documents as set out in annexes and **make a determination** on the application for recognition by IMPRESS.

Executive Summary

4. On 2 February 2016, IMPRESS submitted an application to be recognised as a Regulator in accordance with the Royal Charter on Self-Regulation of the Press.
5. In line with our published guidance, the Executive carried out an assessment of IMPRESS' application and prepared a report (PRP Executive assessment and recommendation for the PRP Board in respect of the application for recognition from IMPRESS: The independent monitor for the press CIC dated 4 August 2016, the "August report") on whether the applicant complies with the requirements of the recognition scheme as set out in the Charter.
6. At its meeting on 23 August 2016, the PRP Board decided a third call for information should be undertaken before it considered and made a determination on the application. The Executive has carried out an assessment of the information received in response to this call and on IMPRESS' submissions to those responses.

Documentation Provided to Board

7. The Board was originally provided with the August assessment report dated 4 August 2016 and enclosures. The Board then received a number of other documents (including letters from stakeholders, additional information contained in emails and a briefing note) just before the Board meeting on 23 August. Having completed the analysis of the information received through the third call for information, we have prepared a supplement to the August assessment report and taken the opportunity to consolidate the information where we can to ensure the Board has in its possession, and can easily navigate itself around, all the information relating to the application and the wider issues raised by some stakeholders.
8. Firstly, at Annex A, the Board is provided with a Supplement to consider alongside the PRP's assessment report of 4 August 2016.
9. Annex B provides an updated Contents Page for the August assessment report and the supplement for those Board members who wish to use their existing hard copy report. The electronic version of the report has already been updated with the new contents page.
10. The Board is provided with (at Annex C) an updated version of the

“additional briefing notes for the PRP Board in its assessment of the application for recognition from IMPRESS”. This paper originally summarised the considerations by the PRP Board when it arrived at its indicative view on the preliminary issues and also, at section B, provided a summary of the additional matters raised in the responses to the call for information. The additional matters were not pertinent to the executive assessment of the application but were matters which needed to be brought to the attention of the Board. We have updated this document so it now covers any additional matters raised in the third call for information and the correspondence received just prior to the Boards August meeting

11. Annex D lists all the documents submitted to the PRP Board to assist them with the determination of the application. All documents and enclosures can be accessed through the embedded links.
12. If any Board member has difficulties in accessing any of the documents electronically they are asked to contact Paul Nezandonyi. If Board members would like any additional documents supplied in hard copy format they are asked to contact Saima Ansari at the soonest.
13. Unredacted versions of IMPRESS’ documentation relating to their application are now available on the confidential section of our website and can be accessed using the following link
<http://pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk/impress-assessment-report/> via password 463\$5axb#2.

Additional information

14. The meeting will be held in the Buckingham Room, De Vere Venues, 9-10 Portland Place, London on 25th October 2016 and the confidential session will commence at 08:30. The public session will follow on at 10:00. The Agenda has been circulated separately.
15. Board Members are asked to bring a Wi-Fi enabled laptop / tablet along to the meeting so that electronic copies of the documents can be accessed if required during the course of the discussion. If you are unable to bring a device, please alert Saima Ansari who will be able to make arrangements to bring one from the office for you.
16. The Board are reminded of the Chair’s email to Board members of 18 Aug 2016 16:07. This provides guidance on a range of procedural and other issues. The Board are encouraged to provide comment direct to the Chair on any of the issues contained in that e-mail.

Risks

17. In response to the determination made in the Board outcome report, there may be pressure and even a legal challenge from those dissatisfied with the determination.
18. There may be pressure from interested parties, for the PRP to publish the full Board outcome report sooner than the '30 days following the Board determination' period proposed in our communications plan.

Devolved Nations

19. There are additional implications/differences in relation to the areas of work covered in this paper.

Recommendations

20. The Board is invited to:
 - **note** the logistical and practical arrangements for the determination Board meeting
 - **consider** the Executive Assessment Report dated 4 August 2016, the supplement dated 7 October 2016 and the documents as set out in Annexes and make a determination on the application for recognition by IMPRESS.

Communicating the determination

21. A communications plan (paper PRP 51(16)) is being considered by the Board as a separate confidential item.