

House of Lords Communication Select Committee
SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE FROM THE PRESS RECOGNITION PANEL
20 FEBRUARY 2015

Introduction

1. Since the Press Recognition Panel appeared before the Select Committee on 13 January 2015, there have been a number of developments on which the Committee might find it helpful to be updated.

Appointment of an Executive Director and other staff

2. We reported on 13 January that we were in the process of appointing an Executive Director to help recruit and lead our executive team.
3. Susie Uppal joined the Press Recognition Panel on 26 January 2015 as Executive Director. One of Susie's early tasks will be to work with the Board on developing the process for recognition, which we will be consulting on publicly in the Spring. Susie is a solicitor by profession. Having moved from private practice where she specialised in commercial litigation, she held a number of high profile and senior operational positions within regulatory bodies including the roles of Director of Legal Enforcement for the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Head of Legal Enforcement for the Gambling Commission and, more recently, Senior Ombudsman at the Office for Legal Complaints. Susie brings significant experience in the set up phase of organisations, and in translating policy and strategy into effective operational delivery. As well as her executive roles, Susie is a co-opted and independent member of the Regulatory Affairs Board of the Law Society and is co-editor of the Blackstone's' Guide to the Equality Act 2010.
4. Now that Susie is in place, we are in the process of recruiting the full and/or part time staff we consider are necessary to give us the capacity to discharge the Royal Charter obligations and develop the process for recognition, and on developing the policies and procedures for that task.

Meeting with people interested in our work

5. We reported on 13 January that plans were in hand to meet with people and organisations interested in our work, to help inform the development of the framework for recognition. The following timetable has now been confirmed:
 - 27 February – **key interest groups** – Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom; Mediawise Trust; Media Reform Coalition
 - 9 March – **key interest groups** - Media Standards Trust; Hacked Off
 - 25 March – **academics and commentators** – including Cardiff University, City University London, London School of Economics, Sussex University, Oxford University, Kent University, Westminster University, the BBC
 - 21 April – **press representatives** – including News Media Association; Society of Editors; Periodical Publishers Association

- 26 May – **journalists** – including National Union of Journalists; Association of European Journalists.
6. A notice has been added to a prominent position on the Panel’s website setting out the planned meeting dates and invitees, alerting any individual or organisation to make contact if they wished to meet with the Panel as part of any particular grouping. The Panel is happy to meet with other individuals and at other times also.
 7. A note of each set of meetings will be prepared and once agreed with all participants, notes will be published on our website (this is consistent with our commitment that all such meetings will be formal and on the public record).
 8. We are pleased that Sir Alan Moses (IPSO and Walter Merricks (IMPRESS) have responded positively to our invitations to meeting, asking for early meetings.

Dr David Wolfe QC, on behalf of the Board of the Press Recognition Panel

20 February 2015