

The Press Recognition Panel  
107-111 Fleet Street  
London EC4A 2AB  
16 January 2015

*By email*

Walter Merricks CBE,  
Chair Designate, IMPRESS

Dear Walter,

It was good to welcome a member of your team as an observer at our Board Meeting on Tuesday morning and then to see you, Jonathan Heawood and other colleagues from IMPRESS at the House of Lords Communications Select Committee on Tuesday afternoon.

I am writing formally to follow up and emphasise some of what Carolyn Regan and I said in evidence to the Committee.

As you know, the Press Recognition Panel came into existence as a legal entity on 3 November 2014 with the appointment of its Board Members under the Royal Charter on that date. Since then, we have started the work to put in place the organisational and regulatory system and processes required for us to consider and decide on applications from press self-regulatory organisations that want to be recognised as compliant with the recognition criteria in Schedule 3 of the Royal Charter.

We believe that is important to frame our approach to those things in the light of an understanding of the views of all interested persons and so we plan to consult on them in the next few months. We intend to be in a position to process any applications before 3 November 2015, the date when the provisions of the Crime and Courts Act 2013 relating to exemplary damages come into force for the purpose of legal actions brought against relevant publishers.

It is our understanding that IMPRESS will not be looking to make an application imminently. However we wish to make clear that we would look to accelerate our plans if our timescales were putting you to any disadvantage in that regard.

On a separate but related matter, as you know, we have made it clear that we are keen to hear from, and potentially meet with, anyone with an interest in our work. As part of that, our Board agreed at its meeting on Tuesday to hold a series of meetings with interested parties over the coming months including with regulators such as IMPRESS. We currently intend that to be later in the schedule but if you felt that an earlier meeting would be helpful, we would of course respond positively.

For the record, I should emphasise that it is the Board's policy that the fact of meetings with interested parties are a matter of public record. However, the Board is entirely open as to whether the content of the meeting itself would be wholly private, or whether it would be held in private but with an agreed note published afterwards, or indeed entirely in public.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the House of Lords Communications Committee, as these issues were touched on in our oral evidence on Tuesday.

I hope this clarification is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wolfe', written over a large, faint circular scribble.

Dr David Wolfe QC  
Chair of the Press Recognition Panel  
[dwolfe@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk](mailto:dwolfe@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk)

cc Lord Best  
Chair, House of Lords Communications Committee  
House of Lords  
London SW1A 0PW

The IMPRESS Project  
83 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0HW  
29 January 2015

*By email*

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 January 2015. I am writing to confirm my interest in meeting with you. I believe that a dialogue between the Press Recognition Panel and IMPRESS would be beneficial.

We are currently working through our core documents and aim to have the organisation constituted in the coming months. We will then register the company and take all the other steps necessary towards establishing IMPRESS as a regulator. At present we have taken no decision as to whether IMPRESS would apply for recognition, but it would be beneficial for us to understand the process.

Please contact Alex Cisneros in our office to set up a date for a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter Merricks', is centered on a light pink rectangular background.

Walter Merricks CBE

Chair Designate of IMPRESS: Independent Monitor of the Press

[walter@impressproject.org](mailto:walter@impressproject.org)

The Press Recognition Panel  
107-111 Fleet Street  
London EC4A 2AB  
10 February 2015

*By email*

Walter Merricks CBE,  
Chair Designate, IMPRESS

Dear Walter,

Thank you for your letter of 29 January 2015.

It is great that you agree that meeting is a good idea.

I understand from Holly Perry in my office that she and Alex have been in contact, and that a date has been fixed for Monday 9 March at 3pm.

The Board and I look forward to welcoming you and Jonathan to our offices then.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wolfe', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Dr David Wolfe QC  
Chair of the Press Recognition Panel  
[dwolfe@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk](mailto:dwolfe@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk)