

The logo for the Press Recognition Panel (PRP) consists of the letters 'PRP' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a dark teal rectangular background.

INDEPENDENTLY  
OVERSEEING  
PRESS REGULATION

PRESS RECOGNITION PANEL

# BUSINESS PLAN

2015/16

# Chair's foreword

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This plan covers the first full year of work for the Press Recognition Panel (PRP) which was created as a legal body on 3 November 2014. The PRP is an independent body and was set up to consider whether press regulators meet the recognition criteria recommended by the Leveson Report into the culture, practices and ethics of the press and now part of the Royal Charter.

I was appointed to the role of Chair by an independent Appointments Committee in June 2014 and then worked with the committee to appoint the other five members of the Board. The PRP and its Board are entirely independent of the government, Parliament, the press or any other such interest, as required by the Royal Charter.

Since November 2014, the Board has been focussing on setting up the structures it needs to operate effectively alongside meeting as many people as possible who have an interest in or are affected by press regulation. An early task for the Board was to agree that it would operate independently, fairly, openly and transparently and these values underpin the work outlined in this plan.

Our focus for 2015-16 is on being ready to receive and consider applications for recognition from press self-regulators by the autumn of this year and on assessing any applications we receive. This targeted plan reflects this objective.

I am committed to establishing independent oversight of an effective system of press self-regulation in the UK. That system will help to secure the public interest and continue to ensure we have a free and vibrant press which acts in accordance with the lessons learned through the Leveson Inquiry. I am looking forward to the challenges of the year ahead as we work to put this system in place.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wolfe', written in a cursive style.

**Dr David Wolfe QC, Chair**

# Executive Director's introduction

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This Business Plan sets out the programme of work that the PRP will undertake in 2015-16. This will focus on developing, consulting on and implementing our process for receiving and assessing applications from press self-regulators to be recognised under the Royal Charter.

I was appointed as Executive Director in January 2015, and since taking up my post I have established a small team to develop, consult on and implement proposals for the way the recognition process will operate.

A key challenge for us is balancing the need to get the system for dealing with applications up and running as quickly as possible with the need to make sure we have taken into account the considerable work and thinking on a system of oversight of press self-regulation which has already taken place, in particular through the Leveson Inquiry.

We are committed to ensuring that all who are affected by our work have a say in how we operate. Over the past few months, we have been meeting campaigning groups, media organisations, academics and commentators to gauge their views on what an accessible and effective recognition system might look like. These meetings are informing our work to develop proposals for the way we will operate. We will then consult widely on our proposals during the summer.

The consultation will include a series of events across the UK and we are keen to hear from people with a wide range of perspectives. The findings from this consultation will help to ensure we produce a system which fairly tests whether or not a self-regulator has met the criteria for recognition, which are set out in the Royal Charter and which is able to adapt to be accessible for different types of regulator which may seek recognition.

At the same time, I will continue to ensure that the PRP has the necessary people, resources, systems and processes in place to enable it to operate efficiently and effectively. There is a lot of work to do to a challenging timetable and I am confident that the focussed and flexible team I have put in place will be able to deliver a robust and effective recognition system.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susie Uppal'.

**Susie Uppal, Executive Director**

# Our mission and values

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**The Press Recognition Panel is the independent body set up by Royal Charter to ensure that regulators of the UK press are independent, properly funded and able to protect the public. The PRP works in the public interest by supporting and promoting a free press in a free and fair society.**

## **We will perform our duties:**

**INDEPENDENTLY** - using to the full the complete freedom we have from state, government or any other interest, and expressing our views honestly and courageously

**FAIRLY** - guided by the principle of understanding the public interest and always putting it first

**OPENLY** - asking questions, using the widest possible range of evidence available to us to make our decisions, and explaining them clearly

**TRANSPARENTLY** - wherever possible holding our meetings in public, publishing our papers, and making our meetings formal and documented – ensuring that the public and those we serve can see how we are putting our principles into practice

# Our objectives for 2015/16

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**Our objectives for 2015/16 reflect our focus on preparing to receive and consider applications for recognition from press self-regulators by autumn 2015 and on ensuring we have the basic systems and processes in place to operate effectively as an organisation.**

## **We will:**

1. develop and implement an effective and proportionate system for dealing with applications for recognition from press self-regulators
2. use insight from those who have an interest in our work to inform what we do

## **We will do this by:**

3. developing a small, highly motivated, diverse and professional staff team
4. ensuring we work flexibly and adaptably
5. ensuring our systems and processes are effective and provide value for money

# What we will deliver

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## Objective 1 - Develop and implement an effective and proportionate system for dealing with applications for recognition from press self-regulators

<b>To achieve this objective we will:</b>	<b>Timetable:</b>
Develop our proposals for the recognition process	April & May 15
Develop proposals for our approach to the recognition criteria	April & May 15
Develop a facilitative approach to dealing with applications	April & May 15
Carefully consider the comments and views received through consultation and amend our processes if necessary	July & August 15
Adopt and publish the application and review process	September & October 15
Determine applications for recognition	From September/October 15
Develop and adopt the review and cyclical process	September-December 15

# What we will deliver continued

## Objective 2 - Use insight from those who have an interest in our work to inform what we do

To achieve this objective we will:	Timetable:
Complete our initial programme of meetings with key stakeholders and use the feedback we receive to develop our proposals	April & May 15
Develop and deliver a programme of consultation and engagement on our draft approach to the recognition criteria	June & July 15
Further develop our approach to the recognition criteria in response to feedback gained from our consultation	July-September 15
Develop and conduct rigorous impact assessment of our proposals to ensure we make effective decisions	July-September 15
Closely monitor the regulatory, press and public policy environments	Throughout the year

## Objective 3 - Developing a small, highly motivated, diverse and professional staff team

To achieve this objective we will:	Timetable:
Recruit staff fairly and openly and develop policies to support diversity, equality and dignity at work	Throughout the year
Work in a collaborative and flexible way to build the knowledge of our staff and enhance the quality of our work	Throughout the year
Actively encourage a working environment of support and constructive challenge	Throughout the year

# What we will deliver continued

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## Objective 4 - Ensuring we work flexibly and adaptably

<b>To achieve this objective we will:</b>	<b>Timetable:</b>
Ensure we have the right combination of skills and experience in our team at the right time to support delivery	Throughout the year

## Objective 5 - Ensuring our systems and processes are effective and provide value for money

<b>To achieve this objective we will:</b>	<b>Timetable:</b>
Ensure that our people have the resources and support they need to work effectively	Throughout the year
Develop our website and other communications materials to ensure that information about the work of the PRP is accessible	May-October 15
Prepare and publish our annual report and accounts	September-October 15
Finalise governance processes	September 15

# Our equality objectives

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1. We will ensure that the PRP complies with the Public Sector Equality Duty (s.149 of the Equality Act 2010)
2. We will ensure our consultation activity is inclusive and actively seeks the views of a diverse audience

## Equality objective 1 - We will ensure that the PRP complies with the Public Sector Equality Duty (s.149 of the Equality Act 2010)

To achieve this objective we will:	Timetable:
Build consideration of equality and diversity into our everyday work as we develop our systems and processes	Throughout the year
Monitor and report on progress against our equality objectives as part of our annual report and accounts	Throughout the year

## Equality objective 2 - We will ensure our consultation activity is inclusive and actively seeks the views of a diverse audience

To achieve this objective we will:	Timetable:
Provide access to information and the ability to respond in different languages and formats when required	June & July 15
Actively work to ensure a wide range of stakeholders feed into our work through our consultation and engagement activity	June & July 15

# Managing performance and risk

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## Governance

The functions of the PRP are determined by the Royal Charter as public functions. We are establishing robust governance arrangements appropriate to our business, scale and culture. The arrangements will combine efficient decision-making with accountability and transparency.

## Performance

As part of the development of our applications process we will develop performance targets for measuring our work, for example timeframes for processing applications.

## Reporting

Our Board meets monthly and oversees the delivery of the work set out in this plan. Regular reports on progress against our objectives will be considered by the Board.

As set out in the Royal Charter we will:

- Report annually to Parliament and the Scottish Parliament on our activities
- Publish reports of any cyclical or ad hoc reviews we carry out
- Publish a report after 12 months of operation and then annually as to whether there is a recognised regulator and if, in the option of the PRP, the system of regulation does not cover all recognised publishers

## Organisational risk

We have a risk management policy and strategic risk register which is overseen by the Board and reviewed quarterly at Board meetings. The Board has agreed to take a cautious approach to managing risks and is mindful of risks to delivery, reputation and the operation of the organisation.

# Our Resources

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The Royal Charter requires that the Exchequer must give the PRP sufficient money for it to set up and operate for its first three years. After that, the PRP will be funded from the fees it charges self-regulators which apply for recognition. The Exchequer has granted the PRP £3m for the first three years of operation.

Given that the organisation is in its first full year of operations and is primarily focussed on preparing to receive applications by the autumn, more detailed financial planning has been carried out for the first half of the year. The Board will continue to keep the budget under review and more detailed planning will be carried out for the second half of the year.

## 2015/16 budget

Income *	2,106,000
Board (salaries and related costs)	76,000
Communications	74,000
Operational costs	784,000
Total costs	934,000
Surplus for year	1,172,000
Reserves Bfwd	758,000
Reserves Cfwd **	1,930,000

### Notes:

\*£3m of Exchequer funds granted for first three years of operation. The Ministry of Justice is being used as vehicle to transfer the funds. £900,000 received in 2014-15. Balance of funding receivable 2015-16.

\*\* Reserves represent funding received to cover the remainder of the three year period being funded.



Press Recognition Panel

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