

PRESS RECOGNITION PANEL
Minutes of the 25th meeting of the Press Recognition Panel Board
held on 24 November 2016 at Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street, London W1W 8HF

Present: Dr David Wolfe QC (Chair), Tim Suter, Carolyn Regan, Harry Rich, Emma Gilpin-Jacobs and Harry Cayton.

In attendance: Susie Uppal (Chief Executive), Paul Nezandonyi (Head of Communications and Stakeholder Management), Saima Ansari (Executive Administration Manager), Adam Gibbs and Megan Archer (JS2 Ltd), Caroline Roberts (Head of Regulatory Affairs) (Agenda Items 8 to 10 only) and Simon Edwards (Regulatory Affairs Manager) (Agenda Items 8 to 10 only)

BOARD MEETING – PUBLIC SESSION

Welcome

1. The Chair **welcomed** Members and attendees to the twenty fifth meeting of the Press Recognition Panel Board.
2. The Chair also **welcomed** the members of the public who were in attendance, who confirmed that they were happy to be named as having been present: James Connal (Capital PR), Evan Harris (Hacked Off) and Nathan Sparkes (Hacked Off).

Declaration of members' interests

3. There were no new interests to declare.

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2016, outstanding actions and matters arising

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October were recorded as correct and the Chair formally **noted** the cross reference at para 13 to the "PRP

Board decision in respect of the application for recognition from IMPRESS: The Independent Monitor of the Press CIC” dated 25 October 2016” and noted that this document formed part of the approved Minutes. The Chair would sign a copy of the Minutes as a correct record. The Chair and Board thanked the Executive for producing the thorough decision document.

5. The log of outstanding Board actions was **noted** and **agreed**.
6. The Board **noted** that there were no other matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

Chief Executive’s Report – November 2016 – Paper PRP53(16)

7. The Board received a paper which provided an update on Executive activity since the last Board meeting on 25 October.
8. The Chief Executive updated the Board on matters since her report was drafted:
 - the IMPRESS decision document had been published on 21 November with the referenced background documents and apart from emails acknowledging receipt, there had been no further public response;
 - 29 responses to the vacancy for an independent member for the Nominations Committee had been received and three candidates were scheduled to be interviewed on 1 December by Tim Suter, Harry Cayton and Susie Uppal;
 - in relation to stakeholder engagement, correspondence had been received from Sarah Wollaston MP asking if we had a view on the Government’s consultation;
 - in relation to stakeholder meetings, Yasmin Qureshi MP had requested a meeting with the Chair and this was in the process of being arranged;
 - following the Secretary of State’s letter to the Chair regarding the s40 consultation, a provisional meeting has been scheduled for the afternoon of 19 December;
 - Board members were welcome to come along to any of the meetings which were being arranged and should let the Chief Executive know if they were available to attend closer to the time. Further details and timings will be provided closer to the date;
 - a note will be circulated of the meeting held with Lord David Lipsey on 26 October.
9. The Board **noted** the contents of the Chief Executive’s report.

Finance Report October 2016 – Paper PRP54(16)

10. The Board received a paper which updated the Board on the financial position as at 31 October.
11. The following points were raised in discussion:
 - the Board **noted** the latest financial position as at 31 October and Harry Rich confirmed that he continues to monitor the finances with the Chief Executive;
 - the Board **noted** the mid-year rebalancing of the budget and the forecast outturn for the year to 31 March 2017; and
 - the Board **agreed** with the recommendation to retain the current banking arrangements.

Any other business and close of public session

12. Evan Harris
 - (1) Expressed thanks on behalf of Hacked Off stakeholders for the exemplary way the decision meeting had been conducted and the effort and time that had been expended to produce the decision document. The Board noted the comments.
 - (2) informed the PRP Board that there was significant misinformation and inaccurate information being put into the public domain. He cited the Daily Mail article of 2 Nov as an example of reckless accusations and gross misrepresentations of facts. The Chair confirmed that it is the PRP's position to correct misinformation and inaccuracies in the media. The Chair added that the PRP welcomed being notified by others of instances where misinformation had been published about the PRP.
 - (3) commented that in his view the update on key external matters (Annex A to the Chief Executives Report) cited media articles that may not necessarily reflect a full representation of views and that we may wish to consider media blogs/analysis that are considerably more supportive as part of the external matters report. The Chair confirmed that the PRP had daily visibility of media information from a variety of sources in addition to the information captured in the Annex.
 - (4) provided a note shortly prior to the meeting making two short comments regarding the way the PRP had described exemplary damages and s40 in a recent communication. The Chair thanked Evan Harris and stated that the PRP was always willing to consider information and thoughts from anyone who wished to provide them.
 - (5) said that Hacked Off considered the annual report on the state of

recognition as an exemplar – it was well written and well-constructed. Evan said PRP should consider providing hard copies of its report to Parliamentarians. The Chair confirmed that the PRP had provided copies to the appropriate select committees and upon request but would reflect on whether to provide further hard copies to other parliamentarians.

(6) said he was here to express the collective views of individuals who had suffered because of media intrusion and who were appalled at the Government's consultation and the clear bias of the questions. Hacked Off would be publishing a reply on the inaccuracies of the Government's proposals. There was strong feeling between individuals and the public.

13. James Connal requested clarification whether the House of Lords Communications Committee and the Culture Media and Sport Committee will be held on the same day as stated in the Chief Executive's report. The Chief Executive confirmed that this is the case.

BOARD MEETING – CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

[Redacted]

Date and time of next meeting

31. The next scheduled meeting of the Board will take place at 16:00 on Tuesday 20 December 2016 at Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street, London W1W 8HF.

Drafted: Saima Ansari
Executive Administration Manager

Signed: Dr David Wolfe QC
Chair

Dated: 14 December 2016