

David Wolfe

From: David Wolfe <dwolfe@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk>
Sent: 14 January 2015 08:27
To: Alastair Brett; Holly Perry; contact@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk
Subject: RE: Meeting today

Alastair

Thanks for your email. It was good to see you at our meeting. We will certainly add you and the others to our contact database. We will be looking at more detailed issues of the kind you mention in the next few months. Do feel free to get in touch then if you and your colleagues want to meet.

Best wishes

David Wolfe

From: Alastair Brett
Sent: 13 January 2015 18:46
To: 'Holly Perry'; contact@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk; 'David Wolfe'
Subject: RE: Meeting today

Dear David and Holly,

Thank you very much for your warm welcome this morning and allowing me to attend your first open board meeting.

As you may or may not know, Early Resolution CIC is a not-for-profit company set up by Sir Charles Gray and myself to help litigants locked in horrendously expensive libel or privacy litigation to resolve their actions quickly, fairly and cost-effectively. Sir Charles as you will know is a former High Court libel judge. As I said this morning, I used to be Legal Manager at Times Newspapers Ltd (TNL) until I fell out with Rebekah Brooks in 2010. One of the things we fell out over was my offering to arbitrate CFA driven libel actions against The Times or Sunday Times with TNL paying for the key issue, which was preventing settlement, being arbitrated at TNL's expense – a kind of early version of QOCS! It did however work as I was always able to settle a libel claim satisfactorily and fairly after the key issue had been arbitrated by one of our panel of specialist arbitrators (see Early Resolution's current website – www.earlyresolution.co.uk – which offers all the leading media silks as suitable arbitrators of media disputes.) After Sir Charles and I set up Early Resolution in 2011 we were joined by Robert Clinton, former senior partner at Farrers as a fellow director and someone who also has extensive media law experience.

Following hearing your plans about consulting with Stakeholders about "recognition" and "reporting" on press regulation, could I ask that Early Resolution CIC be put on your list of "interested parties" as we are very keen to be able to offer up a kind of "Recognition Ready Arbitration Scheme" to IPSO and/or IMPRESS. We have already drafted a Pilot Scheme and Business Plan for an Arbitration Scheme which we believe is Criteria 22 compliant but we would like to talk to you about it. One of the key issues is likely to be how "inquisitorial" such an arbitration scheme should be or if it can and should remain traditionally adversarial with an early strike out mechanism if the claim is vexatious or frivolous.

Over coffee following your board meeting this morning, I had a long chat with Dr Evan Harris who is an old friend but now a little too partisan for ER's comfort! Evan clearly wants any new Arbitral Body to "assess" claims before they are admitted to 'free' arbitration. However, he seems to think that the independent arbitral body which organizes arbitrations should help claimants with their claim. At this point I have to say we parted company but ER really would like to discuss this with the PRP to have your thoughts on the complex question of neutrality and inquisitorial hearings as against traditional adversarial arbitrations.

Anyway if you could put my email address (above) and Sir Charles Gray's – xxxxxxxxxxxx – on your mailing list that would be really kind. If you could also put us onto your list of Stakeholders with a view to the three of us coming in to see you that again would be really kind.

Well done this afternoon. I watched the session on computer and thought you handled the questions really well. It is interesting to see how any new regulator will inevitably be funded in future by its own members.

Hoping to see you again in the not-to-distant future.

With best wishes,
Yours,
Alastair Brett
Managing Director
Early Resolution CIC
Tel 020 7736 0071
18 Edenhurst Avenue,
London SW6 3PB.

From: Holly Perry [<mailto:hperry@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk>]
Sent: 13 January 2015 09:44
To: contact@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk; Alastair Brett
Subject: RE: Meeting today

Dear Alistair

Our Board meeting which is open to the public takes place from 11.00 to 12.45.

The venue is:

Palace Gardens room
Victoria Portland House
Bressenden Place
Victoria
London
SW1E 5RS

When you arrive at the ground floor reception, please advise them that you are here for a meeting in the Regus serviced offices - they will direct you, and when you get to the Regus reception area, ask for the Palace Gardens room/Press Recognition Panel.

We look forward to seeing you.

Kind regards

Holly Perry

---- Alastair Brett wrote ----

Dear Sir, Madam,
I gather that I should email you to see if there is room for my attendance at this morning's Recognition Panel meeting. I do hope that I can come?
Alastair Brett
Managing Director
Early Resolution CIC
Tel 020 77360071