

## **PRESS RECOGNITION PANEL**

### **Note of the meeting of the PRP with Mr Fiyaz Mughal OBE FCMI from Tell MAMA held on 12 May 2016**

#### **Present:**

*From the Tell MAMA*

Fiyaz Mughal OBE FCMI, Director

*From the Press Recognition Panel*

Dr David Wolfe QC, Chair

Paul Nezandonyi, Head of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement (taking notes)

#### **Welcome and introductions**

1. David Wolfe (DW) explained that he welcomed the opportunity to meet with Fiyaz Mughal (FM) as part of the Press Recognition Panel's (PRP) ongoing work to make others aware of the PRP's work and role.
2. DW explained that in accordance with the PRP's policy in relation to meetings with stakeholders, notes would be taken and then agreed by all attendees before being published on the PRP website.

#### **Discussion**

##### *Background to the PRP*

3. DW explained that the PRP was created following the publication of the Leveson Report into the Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press. The report recommended a system of press self-regulation, and led to the creation of a Royal Charter. The Charter provided the framework under which the PRP operated.
4. DW explained that a regulator meant an independent body formed by or on behalf of 'relevant publishers'. DW outlined the definition of a 'relevant publishers' and he described the kinds of publications that fell outside of the definition. DW added that 'relevant publishers' did not just mean the longstanding tabloid and broadsheet print publications; it included emerging, smaller, local print and online publications too, some of which had a relatively large readership, and it also included newer online publications with a national or even global target audience.
5. DW explained that it was possible for there to be multiple regulators. DW added that the PRP was not a regulator – it was an oversight body tasked with assessing regulators against the 29 criteria outlined in the Charter. DW

described the Charter criteria, and he explained that these were part of the system designed to secure the public interest whilst promoting freedom of the press.

6. DW described the way that the PRP operated, and he explained that the organisation was independent of the press, government, and any other outside influence. DW described the provisions in the Crime and Courts Act that sat alongside the Charter. DW explained that not all the court rules had come into force yet, but they would be implemented once The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport decided the time was right.

#### *Background to Tell MAMA*

7. FM explained that Tell MAMA's key role was to monitor Islamophobic incidents. He explained that the organisation was also contacted by people complaining about anti-Islamic news stories. Tell MAMA often complained to the press on behalf of others, and challenged incorrect and inaccurate stories in the media.

#### *Existing regulators*

8. FM expressed the view that regulation was important, and he stated his support for IMPRESS.
9. FM expressed the view that having lodged complaints with both the Press Complaints Commission in the past, and IPSO subsequently, the newspapers did not understand the issues faced by the community his organisation represented.
10. FM expressed the view that there had been no positive changes to regulation following the establishment of IPSO. FM explained his observation that it could be perceived that IPSO was the only body dealing with complaints about the press and issues of regulation. FM believed that awareness of the PRP and its work was low.
11. DW informed FM that the PRP had no role in relation to IPSO, but that the PRP had an obligation to report on the success or failure of the recognition system. DW explained that there was an opportunity for FM and others to share their views with the PRP on how well things had or had not developed since the PRP was established.

#### **Closing comments**

12. DW said that he hoped FM would submit a formal response to the PRP's call for information on the success or failure of the recognition system.