

PRESS RECOGNITION PANEL
Minutes of the meeting with DCMS held on
18 June 2015 at 88 Wood Street, EC2V 7RS

Present: Dr David Wolfe QC (Chair of the Panel), Susie Uppal (Executive Director)

Visitor: Francesca Conlon (DCMS)

In attendance: Sadie East (until 11.55am) (note)

Welcome and introductions

1. DW began by setting out the background to the creation of the PRP, the work it had been doing and its public consultation on the recognition matrix and process for dealing with applications. The following points were also raised:
 - a. The PRP's reporting obligations including its report 12 months after opening for applications.
 - b. IMPRESS' stated intention to submit an application and the possible timescale for this.
 - c. The large number of independents and hyper locals who could benefit from the recognition framework as it would protect them from the costs of litigation.
2. FC said that DCLG was carrying out a pilot¹ around statutory notices which was expected to conclude at the end of the summer.

Action: PRP to provide details of the Birmingham consultation event which will focus on hyper locals.

Discussion

3. DW asked if anything was required from the PRP in relation to the commencement orders for the Crime and Courts Act.
4. FC confirmed that ministers would be discussing when the various buttons would be pushed. If anything was required from the PRP she would let us know.
5. DW noted that the Charter relies for its operation on definitions within sections 40 and 41 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013.
6. FC asked if the PRP was aware of any other possible applications other than the one from IMPRESS.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/news/new-wave-of-innovation-to-update-statutory-notices-for-21st-century

7. DW said that we were not however the funding arrangements meant there was a benefit to applying for recognition in the first three years of the PRP's existence so we were not ruling out the possibility of other applications from regulators meeting specialist needs.
8. FC asked about the relationship with IPSO.
9. DW said that we had asked IPSO to share best practice with us and they were happy to do so. Also it was becoming evident that even though there may be reasons for some not to seek recognition at the moment they would be assessing themselves against the criteria.

Next steps

10. FC thanked DW and SU for giving her an update and she would be back in touch once ministers had considered matters.
11. SU said that she would like to know if anything unexpected was going to happen. She would like to work on the basis of no surprises.
12. FC said that none were expected – everything was proceeding as planned.