

Susie Uppal
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By email: suppal@pressrecognitionpanel.org

21 October 2016

Dear Susie,

PRP Board Decision

Thank you for your email today. You have forwarded the following question, raised by a PRP Board member, which relates to our correspondence earlier this week:

'I fear IMPRESS may have misunderstood question 3. In particular, I am not asking about the situation in which they are "required" to do something. I am asking about the situation in which (directly or indirectly) it seems that there is an attempt to influence them (without anything being put as a requirement). That might, for example, arise in a discussion around funding in the future. My question is what (in practical terms) they would do if they felt that any influence/pressure (falling short of the imposition of a requirement) was being applied.'

It goes without saying that IMPRESS would not be influenced by any undue pressure by a funding body or any other stakeholder, whether that took the form of an explicit or an implicit requirement. Any attempt to influence or put pressure on an individual or organisation which is capable of being understood must amount to a 'requirement', whether or not that requirement is spelt out.

If the pressure related to the current funding agreement between the IPRT and IMPRESS, then it would clearly fall under the description of a 'requirement' at article 6.1 of that agreement, and the Board of IMPRESS would promptly inform the Trustees of the IPRT of this breach of the agreement and follow the relevant procedures set out in articles 6.2–3.

If the pressure related to any offer of future funds, in addition to the Grant described in the IPRT IMPRES Funding Agreement, whether or not offered to IMPRESS by the

IPRT or any other organisation or individual, then IMPRESS would follow the procedures set out in the **IMPRESS Fundraising Policy** (document G10), to ensure that such funding would not compromise IMPRESS's independence and integrity; and the procedures in the **IMPRESS Financial Sustainability Policy** (document G11), to ensure that IMPRESS's financial needs were properly met, taking into account the requirements set out in the Royal Charter.

The Charter requires a regulator's funding to cover a minimum period of four years, which is guaranteed by IMPRESS's funding agreement with the IPRT. IMPRESS is taking steps to ensure its financial sustainability beyond the next four years. However, these steps are not relevant to the question at hand.

I hope that this addresses your Board's concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Heawood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jonathan Heawood
Chief Executive Officer