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By email: [suppal@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk](mailto:suppal@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk)

11 July 2016

Dear Susie,

### **IMPRESS PRP Application**

Thank you for meeting us last week to discuss our application. We appreciate the time that you and your team have taken to review this in detail. You asked a number of questions, which we are addressing, as follows.

You asked for further information about our funding arrangements. We hope to be able to provide you very shortly with confirmation that these arrangements have been modified to further strengthen IMPRESS's compatibility with the Charter requirements. We would be very happy to welcome Patrick to our offices to inspect a record of correspondence between IMPRESS and IPRT. We will be in touch separately to arrange this.

You asked for further information about how we have settled on our financial arrangements. As you know, we have taken extensive steps to engage the news publishing industry on this issue and we have recently held a public consultation on our financial arrangements. We are now drafting a decision paper which analyses the submissions to this consultation and sets out the changes we propose to make in light of some points which have been raised. I am hoping that the Board will be able to review and finalise this paper well before 19 July.

You asked how the IMPRESS Project Board were provided with sufficient information to select members of the original Appointment Panel. I can confirm that the Project Board were sent information about the longlisted and shortlisted candidates for the Panel on 27 June and 24 July 2014 respectively. The information

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on longlisted candidates included copies of each candidate's CV and cover letter and a summary of their eligibility against the published selection criteria. The information on shortlisted candidates included a summary of each candidate's eligibility, as determined by the interviews which I conducted with these candidates. Copies of shortlisted candidates' CVs and cover letters were made available to the Project Board if required.

You asked when the IMPRESS Board reached the decision to adopt the Editors' Code of Practice as our initial standards code. We are happy to provide a record of the IMPRESS Board meeting on 12 January 2015 (**IMPRESS Board Meeting 1 Note Redacted**), at which this decision was taken. This record has been lightly redacted in order to protect sensitive information relating to IMPRESS's business development strategy. As we have previously discussed, the Board worked on the very clear understanding that the Charter criteria, as distilled from the Leveson Report, anticipate the adoption of the Editors' Code of Practice as a regulator's initial standards code. We accept that the Charter may not preclude the adoption of a different code as a regulator's initial standards code. Nonetheless, it is clear that the requirements relating to the code in Criterion 8 must be met by the Editors' Code of Practice. The Board have separately taken appropriate steps towards the appointment of a Code Committee and the development of a new standards code.

You asked for copies of certain documents which form part of our process for assessing prospective members. We are happy to provide copies of the **IMPRESS Model Complaints Policy & Statement of Arrangements v1.2** and the **IMPRESS Publisher Compliance Report Template**.

You also asked for information about our process for following up any outstanding issues with publishers which have completed our compliance process. Our CRM database is programmed to generate information about the compliance status of all participating publishers. Ed and his team meet each week to review this information. Following these meetings, they take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that publishers become and remain fully compliant.

In their meeting with Ed last week, Patrick and Caroline asked in particular about *View Digital*, which was one of the first publications to complete our compliance process. This publication was signed off as compliant on 24 May. A copy of the IMPRESS Regulatory Scheme Agreement was sent on 27 May and returned on 1 July. The IMPRESS trust mark was published on the *View Digital* website on 1 July

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and a complaints procedure was published on the *View Digital* website on 8 July (<http://viewdigital.org/contact-us/>). A reminder was sent to *View Digital* about the whistleblowing policy today (11 July).

We would be very happy for you to publish the clarification documentation we sent you on 1 July, with the exception of the email from IPRT to IMPRESS dated 10 July 2015. As stated above, Patrick is very welcome to inspect this and other items of correspondence between IMPRESS and IPRT.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Heawood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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Chief Executive Officer

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