

## **PRESS RECOGNITION PANEL**

### **Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Press Recognition Panel Board**

**held on 20 December 2017 at Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street, London W1W 8HF**

**Present:** David Wolfe QC (Chair), Harry Cayton, Carolyn Regan and Harry Rich

**Apologies:** Emma Gilpin-Jacobs

**In attendance:** Susie Uppal (Chief Executive), Paul Nezandonyi, Adam Gibbs and Saima Ansari

## **BOARD MEETING – PUBLIC SESSION**

### **Welcome**

1. The Chair **welcomed** Members and attendees to the thirty fourth meeting of the Press Recognition Panel Board.
2. The Chair **noted** that apologies had been received from Emma Gilpin-Jacobs. Emma had however provided comments on the papers and these would be considered during the course of the meeting.

### **Declaration of members' interests**

3. There were no new declarations to note.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2017, outstanding actions and matters arising**

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2017 were noted as correct. The Board **noted** the log of outstanding actions and that there were no other matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

### **Chief Executive's Report – December 2017 – Paper PRP47(17)**

5. The Board received a Paper which provided an update on Executive activity since the November CEO report. To date, no decision has yet been received on the application by the NMA to the Court of Appeal seeking

permission to appeal the decision.

6. The Chair and the Chief Executive had met with Lord Lipsey's group. It was clear that there was still considerable misunderstanding about the recognition system. To address this, peers had been specifically asked what topics required clarification and this had resulted in an updated myths and fact sheet. This was circulated to all peers earlier this month and is available on the PRP website.
7. The Board discussed the recent Lords debate on the draft Data Protection Bill and the proposed amendments; in particular under Exemptions, Schedule 2, Part 5, para 24(4) the implication of the removal of 'IPSO' from sub -paragraph (5) (c) which currently reads 'IPSO Editors' Code of Practice'. It was **agreed** that it would be advisable to write to DCMS to inform them of the PRP's view of the practical implications of the suggestion.  
**Post meeting note:** A letter from the Chair was sent to Lord Ashton of Hyde on 10 January 2018.
8. The Board observed the recent media reports saying that the Government has had to delay a decision on whether to push ahead with the second part of the Leveson inquiry after Sir Brian Leveson asked to review submissions from newspapers. This had also been highlighted during the Lords' debate on the Data Protection Bill. The media reports further quoted a spokesman for DCMS saying that the Government's response would be published early next year.
9. The Board **agreed** that it would be useful to send a copy of the PRP's annual state of recognition report to Sir Brian Leveson for reference.  
**Post meeting note:** The Executive had sent a copy in November 2017 to Sir Brian Leveson as part of the wider dissemination of the report to all peers at the time of publication.
10. The Executive would provide a further update on the amendments to the Bill following the Lords' debate on 10 January 2018.
11. The Board **noted** the latest financial position as at 30 November 2017 and reviewed the Management Accounts. It was agreed that the reference to 'trade debtors' on the accounts should be amended to 'outstanding fees' for accuracy.
12. The Board **noted** that the current banking arrangements continue to meet the PRP's needs and both the Barclays and Handelsbanken accounts effectively disperse the financial risk.

13. The Board **noted** the NMA's complaint to the Cabinet Office that had been circulated to the Board as part of the update in the November CEO report. The PRP has publicly reiterated that the organisation remains independent of government.
14. The Board **noted** with thanks the contents of the Chief Executive's report.

#### **Board remuneration and work review – Paper PRP48(17)**

15. The Board had initially considered this issue in their March 2017 Board meeting and agreed to defer until further clarity had been received in relation to section 40 and the outcome of the Government's consultation. It was deemed prudent to consider this matter at regular intervals to take into account any relevant developments.
16. The Board observed that market rates had increased slightly and agreed remuneration should be set competitively in view of any potential future recruitment activity. The work completed in the previous years was also discussed, with specific regard to the roles of the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) and the ARC Independent Member.
17. The Board **agreed**:
  - The current annualised remuneration rate continued to remain appropriate for Board Members.
  - [with Harry Rich absent from the room] The remuneration for the Chair of the ARC should be increased from the current amount of £1500 to £2500 annually.
  - The Independent Member of the ARC should be paid an annualised sum of £1500, to be paid in monthly equal instalments to reflect current market rates and minimise administrative action.
  - The remuneration rates would continue to be reviewed annually, with the next review scheduled for the December 2018 Board meeting.

#### **Any other business and close of public session**

18. None raised.

#### **BOARD MEETING – CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2017, outstanding actions and matters arising**

19. The confidential section of the Minutes was recorded as correct. The Board

observed that greater information was being made available to the public where possible in the confidential sessions with minimal redactions.

**Quarterly risk register review – Paper PRP49(17)**

20. The Board discussed the risks captured in the register which reflected the ARC's amendments following the ARC meeting on 24 October 2017.

21. redacted

**Post meeting note:** The updated risk register will be considered by the Board at its next meeting in February 2018.

**Any other business and close of confidential session**

22. Harry Cayton informed the Board of his unavailability for the meeting in February 2018 due to conflicting work commitments.

**Date and time of next meeting**

23. The next scheduled meeting of the Board will take place at 09:00 on Tuesday 27 February 2018 at Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street, London W1W 8HF.

Drafted: Saima Ansari  
Executive Administration Manager

Signed: David Wolfe QC  
Chair