



# IMPRESS

## Board Meeting 21 Minute

12:30 – 14:30pm, Tuesday 13 December 2016  
83 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0HW

**Present:** Walter Merricks (Chair), Deborah Arnott, Iain Christie, Martin Hickman, Emma Jones, Maire Messenger-Davies, David Robinson and Patrick Swaffer.

**Also in attendance:** Edward Procter (minutes), Jonathan Heawood

No.	Item
1.	<p data-bbox="284 943 464 981"><b><u>Procedures</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="284 1025 647 1064"><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p data-bbox="284 1070 1082 1234">WM declared a possible interest arising from his reappointment to the Gambling Commission which is awaiting a decision of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Karen Bradley.</p> <p data-bbox="284 1279 687 1317"><b>Minutes &amp; Matters Arising</b></p> <p data-bbox="284 1323 1134 1397">The Board went through the action points from the previous Note.</p> <p data-bbox="284 1451 1134 1570">An annual review of the whistleblowing service delivered by Public Concern of Work is due to take place on 14 December.</p> <p data-bbox="284 1624 1134 1742">Mary Fitzgerald, Editor of Open Democracy has returned to the Code Committee meeting following her return from maternity leave.</p> <p data-bbox="284 1794 1011 1832"><u>The Board approved the October meeting's Minute</u></p> <p data-bbox="284 1877 983 1915"><u>The Board approved the October meeting's Note</u></p> <p data-bbox="284 1960 1082 2031"><u>It was agreed to add both JH and LH, in their respective roles of Chief Executive and Company Secretary, to the</u></p>

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	<p><u>board e-mail group</u>. In circumstances, where the Board wished to communicate privately as a board, they would need to remove executive e-mail addresses from the group.</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Information</u></b></p> <p><b>2.1 Internal Reports October and November 2016</b></p> <p><u>New Office</u></p> <p>Good progress is being made in finalising IMPRESS's new permanent office in New Bridge Street, London, which will allow the staff team to expand. Refurbishment will be completed shortly before the holiday period and the move will take place to permit IMPRESS to relocate to the new offices from 3 January 2017.</p> <p><u>Insurance scheme for publishers</u></p> <p>EP updated the board on a positive further meeting with the insurance industry to provide an exclusive scheme for IMPRESS members.</p> <p>EP also updated the board on other benefits and services that are being developed to support publishers to operate to high ethical standards and to comply effectively with the IMPRESS Regulatory Scheme.</p> <p><u>Complaints</u></p> <p>EP explained to the board that a steady stream of complaints had now started to be received by IMPRESS. Some relate to publishers that are not regulated by IMPRESS and others relate to articles that first appeared before publishers were regulated by IMPRESS. In these cases the complainant was signposted to the publisher in question. All of the complaints received which related to IMPRESS regulated publications were referred back to the publisher to resolve within the 21 day period allowed. EP confirmed that publishers appeared to be very responsive to such referrals.</p> <p>The board reviewed the process for handling complaints.</p> <p>.</p> <p><u>Political environment</u></p>

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	<p>IMPRESS appeared before the Culture Committee on 6 December and is due to appear before the Lords' Communications Committee on 13 December.</p> <p>The board noted receipt of two pre-action protocols relating to the government consultation on section 40 and Leveson 2 and on the PRP's decision to recognise IMPRESS.</p> <p>The board discussed its position concerning the NMA pre-action protocol letter address to the PRP in which IMPRESS is name as an interested party.</p> <p>JH explained that IMPRESS is reviewing its messaging to ensure it keeps pace with the changing external environment.</p> <p><b>2.2 IMPRESS External Report August 2016</b></p> <p>The Board noted the useful contents of the report.</p>
3.	<p><b><u>Standards Code</u></b></p> <p><u>The board agreed the final standards code</u> as proposed by the Code Committee and reminded itself of the next stages of the process.</p> <p><u>The board agreed the Code implementation plan in full.</u></p> <p>The board considered the main differences between the IMPRESS Code and the Editors' Code and noted that the difference is not just in the end product itself but also in the open and transparent process of getting to the end product.</p> <p><u>It was agreed that the Code guidance would be finalised as part of the implementation plan</u> and that it was appropriate for the board to agree the Code with the guidance to follow.</p> <p>The board thanked all members of the Code Committee for their perseverance and expertise in delivering such a strong piece of work. <u>It was agreed that a note should go out to all Code Committee members to thank them for their efforts</u></p>

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4.	<p data-bbox="284 248 847 286"><b><u>Government Consultation Response</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="284 331 1145 539">The board considered a draft response to the government consultation on section 40 and Leveson 2. The board were encouraged to provide further comments on the draft to JH. <u>The board agreed to delegate finalisation of the consultation response to JH and WM.</u></p>
5.	<p data-bbox="284 546 635 584"><b><u>Financial Consultation</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="284 629 1038 707">JH introduced the financial consultation as a working document.</p> <p data-bbox="284 752 1134 837"><u>It was agreed that the Finance Committee would review the consultation document before it was finalised</u></p>
6.	<p data-bbox="284 844 419 882"><b><u>Strategy</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="284 927 1114 1050">The board considered the updated version of the strategic plan that JH had redrafted following the strategic planning day. It was still, however, a work in progress</p> <p data-bbox="284 1095 1126 1256">JH shall continue to review, although with the next board meeting coming shortly after the holiday break, it was unlikely that a further version will be available for the board to consider until its February meeting.</p>
	<p data-bbox="284 1352 1054 1431"><b><u>Next Board meeting 17 January 2017 at 16-18 New Bridge Street, EC4V 8AG</u></b></p>