

## Participants' Consultation

### January 2018

The news is all around us. At any hour of the day or night, we can go online to find out what is happening in our neighbourhood or on the other side of the world. Most of this information does not enter the public domain by chance. It is created by professional journalists, who do their best to ensure that the information is accurate and that it does not unnecessarily harm the rights of others.

At IMPRESS, we know that good journalism is time-consuming and costly to produce. We also know that the negative impact of bad journalism can be enormous. That is why we support news publishers who strive to meet the public demand for professional journalism; and we also support members of the public who are unhappy with a piece of news reporting.

In accordance with IMPRESS's financial sustainability policy and our duty under our Articles of Association, we are hereby consulting participating publishers on our:

- Draft four-year forecast for the period 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2022;
- Draft annual budget for the period 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019; and
- Draft tariff schedule.

We would be delighted to receive any feedback from participating publishers, not only on our financial plans but also on IMPRESS more generally. What is working for you? What is not? How can we improve things?

**If you wish to respond to this consultation, please send your comments by email to our Business Manager & Company Secretary, Lee Hall, at [lee@impress.press](mailto:lee@impress.press) by 5pm on Thursday 1 March.**

IMPRESS is governed by an independent Board, which has the ultimate responsibility for the organisation's strategy, including income and expenditure. When finalising the forecast, budget and tariff schedule, the Board will take all of your responses into account but may not be bound by them.

## Draft four-year forecast, 2018-22

IMPRESS operates in a challenging and unpredictable environment. We cannot predict our costs with total accuracy but we can make educated guesses about where we will need to concentrate our resources over the coming years.

When forecasting our income and expenditure in this period, we have taken into account the cost of fulfilling our obligations as your independent regulator and the commercial pressures that you face in a hyper-competitive industry.

As an independent body, IMPRESS receives no funding from the Government. We are dependent on the fees paid by our members, and the annual grant that we receive from the Independent Press Regulation Trust (IPRT), a registered charity which exists to promote high standards of journalism. The IPRT is funded in turn by the Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust (AMCT), of which Max Mosley is a trustee.

These funding arrangements have been reviewed by the Press Recognition Panel, which has confirmed that our independence is fully protected.

Our funding from the IPRT amounts to £950,000 per annum. In future years, we aim to complement this funding with income from other trusts and foundations.

Our forecast income and expenditure in the period 2018-22 is as follows:

<b>Income</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,049,000</b>	<b>£1,010,000</b>	<b>£1,033,000</b>	<b>£1,055,000</b>
IPRT as % of total income	98.4%	94.1%	92.0%	90.0%

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
Revenue expenditure	£1,027,949	£997,558	£1,031,997	£1,052,297
Capital expenditure	£20,866	£12,376		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£1,048,815</b>	<b>£1,009,934</b>	<b>£1,031,997</b>	<b>£1,052,297</b>

## Draft annual budget, 2018-19

Our first priority is to provide a high quality of service to you, our members, and to the public. Therefore, the bulk of our resources will be directed towards administration, governance, arbitration, complaints handling and investigations.

We also wish to engage wider audiences in our work and to build up our membership base and our income from trusts and foundations. For this reason, some of our resources will be directed towards communications, fundraising, business development and research.

IMPRESS was granted recognition by the Press Recognition Panel (PRP) on 25 October 2016. As of the first anniversary of that recognition, we are obliged to pay the PRP an annual fee. For this reason, the sum of £220,000 has been included in the budget.

Our draft annual budget in the period 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 is as follows:

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
Core administration	£233,470
Governance	£161,931
Arbitration	£42,129
Communications	£115,702
Complaints handling	£138,060
Fundraising	£13,956
Investigations	£10,242
Business development	£61,182
Research	£31,276
PRP fee	£220,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£1,027,949</b>
Capital expenditure	£20,866
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£1,048,815</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>£185</b>

## Tariff schedule

For a second year running, we propose to keep the tariff schedule unchanged. In future years, we expect to revise the tariff schedule, to ensure that our tariffs keep track with inflation and that membership is available to all publishers on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms. We reserve the right to offer limited time discounts on our tariff fees to new members.

For the time being, the tariff schedule remains as follows:

- Publishers with turnover up to £100,000 pay a membership fee of £50 per annum
- Publishers with turnover between £100,000 and £1m = £550pa
- Publishers with turnover between £1m and £2m = £1,500pa
- Publishers with turnover between £2m and £5m = £7,000pa
- Publishers with turnover between £5m and £10m = £15,000pa
- Publishers with turnover between £10m and £20m = £30,000pa
- Publishers with turnover above £20m = £70,000pa

After taking into account the responses of participants, the IMPRESS Board will decide the tariff schedule for the coming year at its meeting in March, and participants will then be notified of the fee payable.