

PRESS RECOGNITION PANEL
Minutes of the 40th meeting of the Press Recognition Panel Board
held on 18 December 2018 at Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street, London W1W 8HF

Present: David Wolfe QC (Chair) Carolyn Regan Harry Rich, Harry Cayton and Emma Gilpin Jacobs

In attendance: Susie Uppal (Chief Executive), Saima Ansari, Paul Nezandonyi and John Speed

BOARD MEETING – PUBLIC SESSION

Welcome

1. The Chair **welcomed** Members and attendees to the fortieth meeting of the Press Recognition Panel.

Declaration of members' interests

2. There were no new interests to declare.

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2018, outstanding actions and matters arising

3. The draft minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2018 were **noted** as factually correct and **agreed** subject to a minor revision of paragraph 7.

Chief Executive's report – December 2018 – Paper PRP83(18)

4. The Board received a paper which provided an update on Executive activity since the November CEO report that had been circulated by email. The Board **noted** the interim November CEO report and supporting Annexes.
5. The Chair and the CEO had met with Dame Frances Cairncross on 17 December 2018. The report on press sustainability was being finalised and

publication was anticipated for Spring 2019. The Chair had provided a summary on the importance of press regulation and the current position. It was noted that whilst parts of the press were averse to bringing themselves in line with the agreed system of regulation already in place, they were keen on ensuring that social media was suitably regulated.

6. redacted
7. The Board **noted** with thanks the contents of the Chief Executive's report.

Finance report – November 2018 – Paper PRP84(18)

8. The Board **noted** the latest financial position as at 30 November 2018.

Arrangements for Board succession planning – appointment and reappointment of Board members – Paper PRP85(18))

9. The Board considered a paper that set out the high-level principles for the reappointment process for serving members and the process for the future appointment of the Board. The members confirmed that they were content to continue in their roles as required to support the organisation.
10. The Board **agreed** that Harry Rich should be a member of the Nominations Committee, alongside the Chair and the Independent member Cindy Butts, to provide additional robustness to the appointments process. Cindy, having been competitively recruited earlier in the year, provided strong independence and impartiality.
11. The Board **agreed** the high-level principles underpinning the reappointments process and that the Nominations Committee will bring recommendations to the Board concerning the reappointment of the Board in February 2019.
12. The Board **agreed** in principle that the recruitment activity for the Chair and Board appointments will be condensed to be undertaken in the agreed years in order to minimise costs and ensure effective campaigns, taking into account the end of the staggered second periods of appointment.
13. The Board **agreed** that the Nominations Committee should consider the high-level principles that will underpin the recruitment process and provide details of the proposed recruitment campaign and timeframes for consideration by the Board in February 2019.
14. It was **noted** that the correspondence concerning the future Board appointments had been received from the Civil Service Commissioner's

office following delegated authority from the current Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Commissioner for Public Appointments has held previous roles as a journalist and editor with press media organisations and the delegation to the Civil Service Commissioner removed any perception of conflict of interest.

Board and Independent members' remuneration – Paper PRP86(18)

15. The Board agreed that the remuneration rates should remain unchanged for the Board and Independent members. Harry Cayton, as the Senior Independent Board member, discussed the Chair's remuneration, once the Chair had been excused from the room, and the Board were content that the Chair's remuneration continued to remain appropriate.

Any other business and close of public session

16. None raised.

BOARD MEETING – CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2018, outstanding actions and matters arising

17. The confidential section of the draft Minutes were recorded as factually **correct** and **agreed**.

Draft report on the recognition system 2018 – Paper PRP87(18)

18. - redacted
- 19.

ARC verbal update

- 20.– redacted
- 22.

Quarterly Risk register review – Paper PRP88(18)

23. redacted
24. The Board discussed the Treasury's decision to bring the PRP within the MOJ's Departmental Boundary for accounting purposes. The ARC had raised concerns about the implications of this decision and regarded it as an erroneous position. The Board **agreed** that as the PRP is constitutionally independent, it is inappropriate for the PRP to be listed

under a government department, notwithstanding the justifications provided to date. The Board **agreed** with the Committee's recommendation that the Chair should write to the Treasury formally noting the Treasury's decision and explaining that we do not agree as this does not reflect our status as independent from government.

25. Post meeting note: The Chair wrote to the Permanent Secretary of the Treasury on 20 December 2018 and the letter was published on our website.

Board evaluation – Paper PRP89(18)

- 26.– Redacted
- 32.

33. The Board action plan would be updated in line with the discussions.

Any other business and close of confidential session

34. None raised.

Date and time of next meeting

35. The next scheduled meeting of the Board will take place at 09:00 on 26 February 2019 at Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street, London W1W 8HF.

Drafted: Saima Ansari
Executive Administration Manager

Signed: David Wolfe QC
Chair