

PRESS RECOGNITION PANEL
Minutes of the 42nd meeting of the Press Recognition Panel Board
held on 26 March 2019 at Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street, London W1W 8HF

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

In attendance: Susie Uppal (Chief Executive), Saima Ansari, Paul Nezandonyi, Patrick Reeve and John Speed (up to Item 6)

Public Attendees: Ed Procter and Lexie Kirkconnell-Kawana (Item 7 only)

BOARD MEETING – PUBLIC SESSION

Welcome

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

Declaration of members' interests

2. There were no new interests to declare.

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2019, outstanding actions and matters arising

3. The draft minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2019 were **noted** as factually correct and **agreed**.

Chief Executive's report – March 2019 – Paper PRP97(19)

4. The Board received a paper which provided an update on Executive activity since the February CEO report.
5. The CEO explained that a letter had been received from Margot James MP (Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries) in response to the Chair's letter to the Secretary of State of 12 February 2019 which enclosed the PRP's annual state of recognition report. A further letter was sent to the Secretary of State following the Government's statements about their intention to explore options for regulating social media platforms. The PRP position is that for social media platforms that are deemed to be relevant

publishers (as defined by the Crime and Courts Act 2013), a system of regulatory oversight already exists in the form of the recognition system. We have reiterated that the PRP is committed to protecting the public from harm and to free speech and requested a meeting to discuss the PRP's role in these matters further.

6. We have also asked for clarification of the Government's position as they have acknowledged that the PRP is an important part of the regulatory framework; however, they have also pledged to remove the Section 40 incentives that would complete the recognition system. The letter and response from the Government will be published as usual.
7. The Board **noted** with thanks the contents of the Chief Executive's report.

Finance report – February 2019 – Paper PRP98(19)

8. The Board **noted** the latest financial position as at 28 February 2019. The main variance lines are £46,166 relating to the PRP's Judicial Review costs reimbursed by the NMA and a £27,138 underspend relating to legal costs (where a prudent £30,000 provision had been made in the forecast).
9. The Board **noted** the continuing prudent management of expenditure.

Cyclical Review of the Recognition of IMPRESS – Paper PRP99(19)

10. The Chair welcomed the IMPRESS representatives, Ed Procter (Chief Operating Officer) and Lexie Kirkconnell-Kawana (Complaints and Investigations Manager) to the meeting. The Board and Executive team introduced themselves.
11. Please refer to 'PRP Board decision on the Cyclical Review of the Recognition of IMPRESS (The Independent Monitor of the Press CIC) 26 March 2019' for the details of the discussion and decision.
12. **Post meeting note:** The Board decision was published on 23 April 2019.

Any other business and close of public session

13. None raised.

BOARD MEETING – CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2019, outstanding actions and matters arising

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

Final business plan and budget – Paper PRP100(19)

15. The Board reviewed the draft business plan. Redacted.
- 16.– Redacted.
- 17.

Communications Strategy - Paper PRP101(19)

18. Redacted. There remained a perception that the role of the PRP was restricted to the printed press notwithstanding the position that social media organisations may fall within the definition of relevant publishers in the Crime and Courts Act 2013.
- 19.- Redacted
- 21.
22. The Board **agreed** to review the PRP's mission, vision and values at its strategy discussion planned for 29 October 2019.
23. The Board **agreed** that the approach to recognition reporting in 2019 should take place on the same basis as past reports and we should be looking at the end of 2019 to publish. Redacted.
- 24.- Redacted.
- 25.

Any other business and close of confidential session

26. Redacted.

Date and time of next meeting

27. The next scheduled meeting of the Board will take place at 9:00 on 14 May 2019 at Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street, London W1W 8HF.

Drafted: Saima Ansari
Executive Administration Manager

Signed: David Wolfe QC
Chair