

Minutes of the Editors' Code of Practice Committee meeting at the offices of the News Media Association, 292 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, on 20 July 2016.

Present:

National newspapers

Chairman: Paul Dacre (Daily Mail); Chris Evans (Daily Telegraph); Hugh Whittow (Daily Express); John Witherow (The Times).

Regional newspapers

Neil Benson (Trinity Mirror Regionals); Ian Murray (Southern Daily Echo); Mike Sassi (Nottingham Post); Hannah Walker (South London Press).

Scottish press

Damian Bates (Press & Journal, Aberdeen).

Magazines

Harriet Wilson (Condé Nast Publications).

Lay members (ex officio)

Sir Alan Moses (*Chairman, IPSO*); Matt Tee (*CEO, IPSO*).

Independent lay members

Christine Elliott; Kate Stone.

Attending

Jonathan Grun (*Secretary*)

Sir Joseph Pilling, Zoe Gannon (*Observers*)

Apologies were received from David Jessel (independent lay member).

Minutes of the meeting on September 22, 2015 were noted, having been approved earlier by email. The committee agreed that this process would be followed in future to ensure that the minutes were published soon after the meeting.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Chairman's introduction: The chairman welcomed Sir Joseph Pilling and Zoe Gannon, who were attending as observers. Sir Joseph was conducting an external review of IPSO and the chairman hoped it would be an opportunity to show how the committee locked editors into the regulatory process.

The chairman noted that Buckingham Palace on behalf of The Queen had successfully brought a complaint against the Sun under Clause One of the revised Code of Practice, which required headlines to be supported by the text.

The chairman commended the secretary and Bianca Strohmann and Ben Gallop of IPSO for their work on revising the Editors' Codebook. Sir Alan Moses observed that the revised Codebook placed a useful emphasis on the processes required to comply with the Code.

Secretary's Report

The secretary had engaged with a number of campaign groups following the launch of the revised Code in January and it was hoped this would lead to greater mutual understanding of the issues involved.

The Committee agreed that such discussion and engagement should be part of the next Code Review, due to start in September 2016. Sufficient time should also be devoted to the process in 2017 to allow a dialogue with interested parties and due consideration of the issues raised.

The Committee agreed that IPSO representatives, lay members of the Code Committee and editors should be included in discussions with interested parties suggesting changes to the Code. The Committee agreed to take steps to raise awareness of the next Code Review to encourage submissions.

The secretary reported that lay members on the Code Committee had attended a meeting of the Complaints Committee to gain an insight into how IPSO policed the Code.

Market Abuse Regulation

The secretary reported on steps that would hopefully lead to journalists working for news organisations regulated by IPSO being exempted from new European Union financial market abuse regulation.

To win exemption it was necessary to demonstrate that the Editors' Code clause on financial journalism was tough, that IPSO was a robust regulator able to impose sanctions and that the detailed guidance in the Code Committee's best practice note on financial journalism reflected the requirements of the EU regulations.

The secretary observed that media organisations contracted to IPSO benefited from the fact the regulator was able to impose real sanctions, whereas other newspapers outside the IPSO system would not be able to cite that fact when making the case for exemption from statutory regulation of financial journalism.

Revised Editors' Codebook:

The secretary said the revised Codebook, which aimed to be the best guide to IPSO's interpretation of the Code, was on course to be published online. It would then be updated periodically.

The committee decided that the Codebook should be published in book form later in the year.

The Committee noted that the Codebook was intended to be a guide to IPSO's interpretation of the Code – but the regulator remained the final authority on Code issues.

Next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in the autumn of 2016 on a date to be decided.