10:00am - 4:00pm 12 January 2015

83 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0HW

Present: Walter Merricks (Chair), Iain Christie, Deborah Arnott, David Robinson (until 3:30pm), Maire Messenger Davis, Patrick Swaffer, Sue Evison.

In attendance: AC (minutes), JH, NP

1. Introductions

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and invited the Board and staff to take the opportunity to get to know each other.

2. Strategy

The Executive Director presented a Strategic Briefing Paper. The aims of IMPRESS were defined as:

- Enabling the press to hold the powerful to account
- Enabling the public to hold the press to account
- Enabling the public to distinguish between regulated and unregulated journalism.

The board held a wide-ranging discussion.

3. Constitution

The board considered a briefing paper outlining issues that would need to be addressed in the IMPRESS articles of association. It was agreed:

- a. To include a 'sunset clause' in the Articles, to cause IMPRESS to be wound up in the event that its independence is compromised by a future government.
- b. To retain the services of the Appointment Panel.
- c. To establish a Code Committee to advise the Board on the use and development of the Editors' Code.

4. The Royal Charter

The Board discussed a background note on the Royal Charter on Self-regulation of the Press.

5. Finances

The Board considered a financial briefing note.

6. Dates of future meetings

A schedule of dates for future monthly meetings was agreed.

7. Any other Business

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 4:00pm.