

THE PRESS STANDARDS BOARD OF FINANCE LIMITED

Strictly private and confidential

Minutes of meeting of Directors
held at Bloomsbury House, London, on
Friday, 27 January 2006 at 2.15 pm.

PRESENT

Tim Bowdler (Chairman), Nicholas Coleridge, Paul Dacre, David Newell and James Raeburn.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Robin Burgess, Leslie Hinton, Ian Locks, Clive Milner and Steve Oram.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Directors' meeting held on 20 October, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved.

3. PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

3.01 PCC Chairman:

The Chairman felt that he and the Secretary had been well received by the Commission and had engaged in constructive dialogue reassuring members of PressBoF's ongoing support for their work. Questions had covered the relationship between the PCC and PressBoF and funding. It was anticipated that other matters might be raised with them at a further meeting with the PCC Business Sub-Committee in March.

The Board considered that while all present powers vested in PressBoF relating to the PCC Chairman and funding must continue to be reserved it would be of value to examine ways of strengthening the relationship. The idea of a PCC nominated Commissioner, outwith the Chairman, providing a conduit enabling PCC members to have a channel of communication with PressBoF could offer a way forward.

With a view to having contingency plans in place, the Secretary was asked to report back on the specification for and procedures relating to the appointment of the PCC Chairman.

It was further agreed that the Secretary should write to the PCC Director explaining why a draft proposal to reduce the number of editors on a smaller PCC would not be acceptable.

3.02 Re-location costs: The Board noted a report submitted by the PCC Director that the fitting out of Halton House had increased from the budget figure of £106k to £136k, part of which was attributable to an unforeseen cost of £16k for wall storage. There was a further charge of £24k for non-recoverable VAT for which no provision had been made, taking the additional costs to £54k. Negotiations regarding the dilapidations on the Salisbury Square building had yet to take place.

4. TELEVISION WITHOUT FRONTIERS (TVWF)

The Board noted that the sub-group chaired by David Newell would meet again shortly to consider recent developments in connection with the proposed TVWF Directive and a paper being prepared by the PCC Director.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board noted the Treasurer's Report as at 16 January (circulated).

6. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The Board approved the Chairman's remuneration of £25,000 per annum with effect from the date of his appointment (1 December 2005).

7. FUTURE MEETING DATES

It was agreed that unless developments warranted a further meeting, the next two meetings would be held on Thursday, 22 June (2.15 pm) and Friday, 20 October (11 am).

At a lunch preceding the meeting, the Chairman had paid warm tribute to Philip Graf who had stood down as Chairman of PressBoF following the announcement of his appointment as a Vice Chairman of Ofcom.