

Minutes of the Editors' Code of Practice Committee meeting, held on Tuesday, July 4, 2023.

Present:

Chairman: Neil Benson

David Clegg, The Courier; Sarah de Gay, independent lay member; Charlotte Dewar, CEO, IPSO; Christine Elliott, independent lay member; Chris Evans, Telegraph; Lord Faulks, Chair, IPSO; Anna Jeys, Reach Birmingham; Gary Jones, Daily Express; Tina Sany-Davies, Bauer Media; Gary Shipton, National World; Kate Stone, independent lay member; Ben Taylor, Sunday Times; Ted Verity, Daily Mail.

Apologies: Ian Carter, Iliffe Media

Attending: Jonathan Grun, secretary

Chairman's introduction

The chairman welcomed members to the first in-person meeting since before Lockdown and noted that despite the problems posed over the past few years the work of the committee had continued uninterrupted including holding a public consultation, revising the Code, recruiting new members, holding discussions with campaigners and official bodies, revising the Codebook and preparing submissions on matters of concern.

The chairman welcomed to the committee David Clegg of The Courier; Ben Taylor of the Sunday Times and Ted Verity of the Daily Mail. He thanked Anna Jeys for her service as this would be her last meeting.

The chairman reported that issues raised by the committee in a submission had been reflected in the new code of practice for the media produced by the Information Commissioner's Office.

Recruiting new independent lay members

The chairman reported that progress was being made to replace two independent lay members whose terms of office were drawing to a close.

Update by IPSO

Lord Faulks, chair of IPSO, updated the committee on the recent work of the regulator.

Membership

The committee agreed that the introduction of independent lay members had been an important and positive development for the committee and discussed the process for recruiting new independent lay members in 2023, following the expiry of the terms of office for two current members.

Jeffrey Review

The committee held a general discussion on the work of IPSO in the light of the review of IPSO by Sir Bill Jeffrey, which had spoken in positive terms of the Editors' Code and the Code committee.

Triennial Code review

The committee noted that it had received wide ranging submissions on the Code and agreed to consider them in detail.