



## **INTERNET WATCH FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING**

**1.10pm Tuesday 16 October 2012  
Room 7, NCVO, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1 9RL**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Sir Richard Tilt (RT) (Chair)  
Dr. Suzy Walton (SW) (Independent Vice-Chair)  
Jonny Shipp (JS) (Industry Vice-Chair)  
Sir Rodney Brooke (RB)  
Naomi Cohen (NC)  
Philip Geering (PG)  
Mary MacLeod (MM)  
Peter Neyroud (PN)  
Brian Webb (BW)

**IWF Staff:** Susie Hargreaves (CEO) (SH)  
Fred Langford (FL)  
Emma Lowther (EL)  
Julie Bawtree (JB)  
Bill Johnston (WJ)(minutes)

**In attendance** Andrew Cormack (AC) (Dr Laidlaw article discussion only)  
Kristof Claesen (KC) (Dr Laidlaw article discussion only)

**Apologies:** Andrew Yoward (AY)  
Deborah McGovern (DM)

### **IWF Board Closed session**

It was confirmed MM would be re-appointed for a second term.

#### **1. (a) Welcome and Apologies**

The meeting began at 1.20pm.

There were apologies from Andrew Yoward and Deborah McGovern.

#### **(b) Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The Board approved the minutes of the special meeting held on 19 June 2012 subject to a minor amendment.

**Action 1 – WJ will amend the minutes of the special meeting held on 19 June 2012 in line with Board’s instructions.**

The Board approved the minutes of the Board meeting held on 17 July 2012 subject to two minor amendments.

**Action 2 – WJ will amend the minutes of the Board meeting held on 17 July 2012 in line with Board’s instructions.**

**3. Matters arising - including action summary**

Action 12.23 from 20.03.12 – SH advised once the bribery policy for the IWF had gone through DMT it would come to Board for approval. BW advised he would send British Telecom’s (BT) bribery and anti-corruption policy to DM to assist in writing of the policy. There were no other matters arising as all actions had been complete.

**Action 3 – BW to forward BT bribery and anti-corruption policy to DM and to come to Board meeting on 20 November 2012.**

**4. Re-presented Minutes from Audit Committee Meeting 19 June 2012**

These were noted by the Board and a minor typo was noted.

**Action 4 – BJ will amend typo ready for Audit Committee meeting on Wednesday 24 October 2012.**

**Matters for Report – Dr. Laidlaw’s article - Discussion**

The Board had been forwarded a journal article from Emily Laidlaw of her PhD on “the responsibilities of free speech regulators: an analysis of the Internet Watch Foundation” in the Oxford Journal of Law and Information Technology. The IWF had not been consulted as part of the process. RT asked for Board comments and suggestions for a formal response. It was agreed that there were a number of factual inaccuracies and that it was written from a very specific perspective. However, some of the issues raised, particularly, in relation to issues of human rights, accountability and perceived lack of transparency were important to address. It was also important to request a right of reply from the journal to correct any inaccuracies as whilst the academic study might have a small readership, if not challenged it could be referenced in future studies and articles. It was **agreed** that KC is to write to the journal to request a right to reply and to offer a meeting with Dr. Laidlaw to discuss the issues and correct any misconceptions. In future, independent audit report summaries will be made clearly visible on the front page of the IWF website. SH agreed to organise a meeting with PN, PG and key staff members to scope a brief for a human rights audit of the IWF.

**Action 5 – KC to arrange a meeting with Dr. Emily Laidlaw the author of the article and the journal for a 'right of reply'.**

**Action 6 – SH to arrange a meeting with to look into the scope for a human rights audit.**

AC and KC left the meeting after this item.

## **5. Chair's Report**

RT advised the Board he was continuing to have meetings with Funding Council (FC) representatives and he had also attended the launch of the second issue of Vodafone's Digital Parenting Magazine.

Regarding governance, RT asked that SH let the retired trustees know the latest updates. A second letter had been forwarded to the Charity Commission. At the Charity review meeting held on 9 October 2012, which he did not attend, he was advised that FC representatives were unlikely to agree to article 34.3 being removed. SH reported that the meeting had closed with an agreement to draft a protocol which would outline the circumstances in which the right of veto might be exercised. SH has completed a very rough first draft protocol for feedback from RT/SW/PG. It is hoped the work will be completed by February 2013.

RT also reported he had attended a two day conference with 600 delegates on Cyberspace in Budapest, attended by many Foreign Ministers, including William Hague. RT reported he had acted as rapporteur for the workshop on children on the internet.

**Action 7 – SH to advise retired trustee's on current situation with Eversheds.**

**Action 8 – SH to work on draft protocol for the use of 34.3.**

## **6. Funding Council Report**

The FC report was noted by the Board.

## **7. CEO and DCEO's Report**

SH updated the Board on her report and asked for discussions under section 2.1 whether to take forward Facebook's requesting use of IWF's list for monitoring purposes. JS said that as this was a policy matter, it should be referred to FC for initial discussion at the next meeting. This was agreed.

RT asked the Board if they agreed the financial tolerance level of 5% either way. This was agreed.

**Action 9 - JS will take Facebook request to use IWF's list for monitoring purposes to the next FC meeting and report back to Board.**

## **8. Communications Report**

EL updated the Board on her report and gave an update of the "Do the Right Thing" campaign. The Board had asked for specific feedback on the use of the Maradona image. Approval was granted to use the image but only if we agreed to a specific condition which was not appropriate. After a discussion the Board agreed that the campaign would go ahead without any images of sporting personalities. EL reported that she had obtained a 40% discount on advertisement space.

The Board asked for an explanation on the gap in web statistics. This was due to the 'Cookie Law' on website hits and that the Communication team is measuring server statistics via another method. It was **agreed** that this should continue to be placed on future reports. Board also asked for specific examples to be included in future reports for fluctuations.

**Action 10 – EL to ensure explanation as to why no data due to 'Cookie Law' on future Board papers.**

## **9. Communications Strategy**

EL gave a presentation to the Board on Communication strategy. NC advised that purchasing a couple of questions on an omnibus survey could be useful and relatively inexpensive as well as the proposed survey using survey monkey.

## **10. Technical Report**

FL updated the Board on his report. It was **agreed** that FL would include trend data on country movement on future reports.

**Action 11 - FL to ensure that trend data is included on future reports.**

MM left the meeting at 3.25pm.

## **11. Operational Report**

FL gave a presentation to the Board and took questions. RT asked what % of reports are anonymous and EL advised 46%. SH advised the Board on how reports are acknowledged and they can request feedback. There was a detailed discussion about the balance between public reports and how we prioritise them. There are a number of factors to take into account, principally our public legitimacy as the UK hotline for the public to report and the fact that our self-generated reports are driven by intelligence gleaned from the public reporting.

The important thing is to increase the quality of public reports through greater awareness of the IWF and our remit.

## **12. IWF International Plan**

SH took questions on the IWF: International plan and she reported that JS had fed back his comments. The plan was for self-generated purposes only and detailed 2012/2013 only, was based on scoping and piloting projects. The work undertaken this year would inform a detailed financial plan going forward. The international work would have to generate funds for the IWF to justify any expansion. SH assured the Board that the only funds expended were within the agreed feasibility study budget. NC asked about the finances of the pilot country wide assessments. SH responded that the countries involved would pay all travel and expenses and the only cost to the IWF was SH and FL's time. If the two planned pilots go well, all future projects would be paid in full and would be delivered by subcontracted consultants. It was **agreed** that SH would revisit the Vision Statement, to make it more realistic and that subject to these changes being made, the plan was approved.

**Action 12 - SH to revisit Vision Statement for IWF: International.**

## **13. Newsgroup Review**

The Newsgroup review was noted by the Board and DM is to bring back to the November Board meeting with recommendations and a policy to take forward.

**Action 13 – DM to bring to November Board with recommendations and a policy.**

RB left the meeting at 4.05pm.

## **14. AOB**

PN requested that an updated list of IWF Staff members be sent to Board members due to the changes over the last 6 months.

**Action 14 - WJ to send updated IWF Staff members list to Board members.**

PN suggested a presentation from Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) on peer to peer be given to the Board members.

**Action 15 – SH to invite CEOP to attend a Board meeting to make a presentation.**

SH advised that the next FC meeting on 12 December 2012 will include drinks with FC members and Board members were invited to attend.

SH advised that a joint research project with the Lucy Faithful Foundation had been agreed. It is to be launched on Wednesday 27 March 2013 and will be held at BT Tower.

**15. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20 November 2012 at the NCVO, Regents Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London, N1 9RL at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 4.10pm.