

**INTERNET WATCH FOUNDATION**

**Board Meeting**

**10.30 am, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**At the SMART Company, 78 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6HE**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Amanda Jordan (Chair), Emma Ascroft, Sonia Livingstone, Hamish MacLeod, Tink Palmer, Jim Reynolds, Camille de Stempel, Ian Walden,

**IWF Staff:** Peter Robbins, Sarah Robertson, Brian Wegg

**Apologies:** None

**Also in attendance for item 15:** Chris Atkinson

**1 Welcome**

Amanda Jordan opened the meeting.

**2 Notification of a Board resignation**

Chair notified the meeting that she had received Chris Atkinson's resignation from the Board. Chris had been appointed to a post in the internet industry and was no longer eligible to be a public-interest Board member.

**3 Minutes of previous Board meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**4 Matters arising**

It was noted that all actions were completed, ongoing or matters on the main agenda.

There were no other matters arising.

**5 Minutes from Executive Committee of 27<sup>th</sup> February**

These were noted.

**Policy matters:**

**6 CAIC:**

**a) Draft press release and FAQs on CAIC URL leak**

Chief Executive explained that Board had asked the executive to prepare a press release which would be on stand-by in the event of a disclosure of the CAIC list.

Board felt that the tone of the draft release needed some adjustment, that reference should be made to the measures taken to ensure security and noted some minor wording changes. Board members were asked to forward any further comments to the Communications Coordinator.

**ACTION 1:** (a) Board to forward comments

(b) Communications Coordinator to prepare a final draft.

**b) Validation**

**(i) options –framework document for information**

Chief Executive asked Board to note that the paper was a progress report that outlined the available options and considered their viability; Board were not being asked to take decisions on the matter at this stage and not all options had been fully explored and costed.



Board asked that in order to inform decision making the final paper should include definitions and state a clear objective for validating. Following further discussion, Board acknowledged that the concept of self-validation fitted into the philosophy of self-regulation but would require a form of random checking.

**ACTION 2:** A paper including more fully costed options to be presented to next Board

#### Validation - (ii) remedies and (iii) sanctions – outline paper

Chief Executive introduced the paper and explained that the process set out was illustrative and identified some possible breaches with timescales and some possible consequences. At this stage the executive was seeking guidance from Board with regard to the process.

Board members felt it was important to differentiate between minor breaches and more significant breaches and, if there were persistent breaches of any nature, it was felt that stopping supply of the data should occur at an early stage. Board noted that it may be necessary to form a panel to consider significant breaches, appropriate action and appeals. Some Board members expressed concern about the term breach in the context of this process.

Chief executive explained that the executive had taken this part of the process as far as in-house expertise would allow and would take into account Board comments in seeking external advice in producing a more detailed paper for consultation with industry. A further paper would come to the May Board meeting.

**ACTION 3:** Ian Walden to assist in commissioning external advice on designing an appropriate process.

#### c) Transparency – text and FAQs to accompany publication of company list

Board noted the revised draft paragraph and FAQs and agreed to forward comments within one week. Following Board amendments, the revised paragraph would be circulated to industry and ISPA for comments.

**ACTION 4:** (a) Comments on the revised transparency paragraph to be forwarded to the executive; and

(b) Revised paragraph to industry and ISPA.

### **7 Extreme pornography – remit extension**

Board noted that the proposal was this would now be a self-standing offence based on possession and would not be an amendment to the Obscene Publications Act.

Chair explained that legislation was imminent, that the government had asked IWF to take this matter on and it was therefore important to have a debate on the issues. Board considered whether the proposal was an extension to the remit and some Board members expressed the view that it fell within the current remit. Chief Executive said that following an initial surge he felt the impact on workload should be minimal.

Following further discussion Board agreed that a consultation paper should go to industry colleagues for comment.

**ACTION 5:** Consultation paper to industry on:

(a) Whether the proposals are an extension to the remit; and

(b) Whether IWF should take this work on.

### **Organisational matters:**

### **8 Financial:**



a) Audit Sub-committee 23 February feedback from Committee Chair

Committee Chair reported that the first meeting had taken place. At the meeting management accounts had been fully scrutinised and an outline agenda plan set out for the year. The next meeting would take place in April in order to review the provisional close down figures and to receive tenders for the appointment of auditors.

b) Staff cost of living pay increase

Board supported the recommendations in the paper.

c) Revised one-year transitional business plan 2007/8

Chief Executive explained that the revised paper had been supported by Funding Council and Board adopted the transitional business plan nem con.

**9 Membership:**

a) Member update report

Board supported both applications for Associate Membership.

Board noted the application by Cumbria Local Authority for access to the CAIC list and confirmed that the application did not satisfy their policy decision made on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006 Board which stated that the CAIC list would only be made available to ISPs and software providers.

**10 Governance matters:**

a) Charity Commission application for remuneration for Board members

Board noted that the application had been made and was under consideration by the Commission.

It was noted that the executive had carried out some initial discussions with recruitment consultants and more would take place shortly. Board endorsed the recommendation that the selection panel approach Philip Graff, the Vice-chair of Ofcom, as the independent member of the panel.

**ACTION 6:** Hamish volunteered to approach Philip Graff.

b) Discussion on format for strategic Board and FC meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007

Board members felt the theme for the strategic discussion should be, 'Emerging content and emerging measures - what are the key issues for IWF over the next three years'. Board felt that the international dimension to IWF's work should form a key part of the discussion.

**Chair and CEO matters:**

**11 Chair's report – verbal update**

Chair had no further matters to report.

**12 Chief Executive report – verbal update**

Chief Executive updated the meeting with regard to the INHOPE database and pointed out that some funding difficulties had arisen. He was asked to keep Board informed about any developments.

**Operational matters:**

**13 Hotline:**

a) Hotline Operational report

Board noted the helpful report. Board agreed that it would be helpful to receive a presentation from the hotline at the September meeting in Oakington on how a report is processed.



b) Incitement to racial hatred partnership

The developments in forming a partnership to deal with this content were noted.

**14 Communications:**

a) Roadshow evaluation

Sarah Robertson gave a presentation on the evaluation of the programme of Roadshows.

b) News cuttings – information item

Noted.

c) Communications Sub-committee 27<sup>th</sup> February

Chair gave feedback on the first committee meeting.

d) Annual Report 2006

Sarah Robertson outlined the arrangements for the launch of the annual report at 11 Downing Street on 23 April and the plans to carry out the PR and media launch on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Chair explained that there were limits on the number which could be accommodated for the launch and it had been necessary to limit the invitations accordingly. The focus of the launch event would be the role of industry.

**15 AOB**

Chair welcomed Chris Atkinson to the meeting, thanked her for her contribution to the Board and presented Chris with a gift as a token of IWF's appreciation of her input.

There was no further business.

**16 Board dates:**

Board dates for 2007:

22<sup>nd</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 27<sup>th</sup> November – all Tuesdays, start time **10.30 am**

[The 3<sup>rd</sup> July meeting will be the annual strategic meeting and Board away-day and the September meeting to be hosted at the IWF offices.]

The next meeting will be at the Smart Company.

The meeting closed at 1 pm.