

INQUIRY INTO CONDUCT OF 2007 BALLOT

1. The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain (“the Society”) was incorporated by Royal Charter on 27 July 2004. The Charter at 12.1 provides that the governance of the Society shall be vested in a Council elected ‘as the By-laws or the Rules for the time being shall direct’.
2. The regulations regarding elections to Council are contained in rule 6 and the distribution of ballot papers and the counting of the votes contained in ballot papers are provided for in sub-rules f, g, h and i of the rule.
3. Elections to Council are held in alternate years; 2007 was an election year.
4. On 10 October 2007 shortly before the Annual General Meeting at which the results of the election were to be announced Ralph Jacobson then President of the Society received from Terry King a member of the Society acting on his own behalf and it was said on behalf of other members of the

Society a complaint in writing regarding the manner in which the ballot for election to the Council had taken place.

5. The Council of the Society has decided that the nature of the allegations make it desirable that there should be an inquiry chaired independently to investigate the allegation made and, if appropriate, to make recommendations regarding the future conduct of elections.
6. Richard Bowman who is a solicitor and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and was until 2004 a Master of the Supreme Court has accepted the invitation of the Council to chair the inquiry; the other members will Christopher Roberts Hon FRPS and Michael Austin Hon FRPS both of whom are past presidents of the Society but who played no part in the election process.
7. The Commission's terms of reference are to investigate the procedures adopted in the course of the 2007 election, to determine whether there was any breach of procedure rendering the outcome of the election unfair or unsafe and to make any necessary recommendations for the conduct of future elections.

8. The Commission proposes to hold a meeting on 11 January 2008 at a time and a venue to be notified for the purpose of receiving evidence and hearing submissions. Before doing so it invites the parties to whom this statement is sent (and whose names are set out in the appendix to this statement) to make submissions in writing supported by any appropriate documentation (or to identify and confirm the contents of any document already submitted on which they would seek to rely). Any such submission (or confirmation) which must be signed should be sent to the Chairman electronically to richardbowman@uk2.net or in the alternative by post to Smithy House, Tormarton, Badminton, South Gloucestershire GL9 1HU to reach him by five o'clock on 8 January 2008. If any submission is intended to represent the views or evidence of others, then those individuals must be identified by name and it be confirmed that their consent to the lodging of the submission has been forthcoming.

9. At the meeting any party who has lodged a written submission will be invited to make a short oral submission and be permitted to put questions to other parties through the Chair. The Commission may in its discretion invite to the meeting any party who has not lodged a written submission but who in

the opinion of the Commission may be able to assist its deliberations.

10. As a consequence of the communication referred to at paragraph 4 above Stuart Blake the Director General of the Society raised as a matter of grievance in respect of his employment and sought investigation of the allegation made regarding the conduct of the election. To ensure consistency of findings the Commission has agreed to address and seek to resolve Mr Blake's grievance during the course of the meeting referred to at paragraph 9 above.
11. The outcome of the inquiry will be delivered in writing as soon as convenient after the conclusion of the meeting.
12. It is not practical to circulate all the members of the Society with a copy of this statement but a copy will be posted on the Society's website with the intention that any member of the Society who has an interest in doing so can communicate with the Commission in the manner set out at paragraph 8 above.
13. Any individual who wishes to have any guidance or information in connection with the inquiry and its

procedure is invited to communicate with the Chairman.

Richard Bowman

[] December 2007

APPENDIX

(those to whom this statement is being sent)

Terry King (the Complainant)

Ralph Jacobson (the President of the Society at the time of the ballot)

Stuart Blake (the Director General of the Society)

Barry Senior (the President of the Society)

John Page (Chairman of the 2007 Election Scrutineers)

Ian Bailey (the Treasurer of the Society)