

IP Inclusive Advisory Board (IPIAB)

Formal Minutes of IPIAB Meeting – 23 September 2026

Chair: Jodie Bates

Secretary: Sally Bannan

Date/time: 23 September 2026

Location: Hybrid meeting

Attendance

In person: Robert Andrews (IPIM); Carol Arnold; Sally Bannan; Jodie Bates; Vicki Barker; Julie Browne; Caelia Bryn-Jacobsen; Ben Buchanan; Lesley Evans (IPIM); Pete Fellows.

Remote: Sue Antoine; Iona Berkeley; Abdulmalik Lawal; Sherena Masharani; Megan Rannard; Anna Smith.

Apologies: Erich Hou-Richards; Saiful Khan; Liam Lawlor; Josh McLennon; Charlene Nelson; Carol Nyahasha; Ellie Pilott; Paul Sweeden; Sheila Wallace.

Opening notice: Jodie welcomed attendees and thanked Kilburn & Strode for hosting. The meeting focused on AI and inclusivity, international engagement, and effective use of the Advisory Board's expertise.

1. IPIM strategic meeting update

Lesley provided an update from the IPIM strategic meeting held on 22 September 2026. The Board discussed how IPIAB can continue to support IPIM by testing ideas, identifying emerging issues and contributing expertise from across the IP sector. Members welcomed the opportunity for direct discussion with IPIM representatives and noted that some topics may benefit from targeted follow-up by smaller groups.

Action

- IPIM to take account of the Board's comments in its strategic planning.

2. AI and inclusivity

The Board discussed the implications of AI for inclusion within the IP professions. Members identified potential benefits, including support with drafting, communication, data analysis and participation by people who may otherwise experience barriers.

Risks discussed included inaccurate or biased outputs, unequal access to AI tools and training, over-reliance on AI, and possible disadvantage in recruitment or professional development. The Board emphasised the continuing importance of human judgement, underlying professional skills and appropriate oversight.

Members considered that IP Inclusive could make a useful contribution by examining AI through an inclusion-focused lens, including access, bias, training and professional confidence. An Advisory Board-led event or panel was suggested.

Actions

- Jodie and Sally to explore an Advisory Board-led event or panel on AI and inclusivity, potentially in early 2027.

- Jodie and Sally to seek volunteers for a small working group representing a range of perspectives.
- IPIM to consider how future AI-related activity could focus on inclusive adoption, access, bias and training.

3. International outreach

The Board discussed the international context of IP Inclusive's work. Members supported maintaining the organisation's primary focus on the UK IP sector, while recognising the value of learning from and sharing experience with international contacts.

Possible future activity could focus on inclusive international working and culturally sensitive communication. Any such activity should avoid presenting UK approaches as universally applicable or expecting individuals to represent an entire country or culture.

Action

- IPIM to consider whether an IP Inclusive community could support future activity on inclusive international working and culturally sensitive communication.

4. Expertise and interest areas of Advisory Board members

The Board supported a proposal to collect information about members' relevant experience, interests and involvement in IP Inclusive activities. This would help the Chair and Secretary identify members who may be able to contribute to particular topics or short-term working groups.

Members emphasised that participation should be voluntary and that information should be collected, stored and used with appropriate consent and confidentiality.

Actions

- Jodie to circulate the agreed questions to Board members.
- Jodie and Sally to agree appropriate arrangements for storing and accessing the information.
- Board members to update their IP Inclusive website biographies where necessary.

5. Future meeting format and connection with IPIM

The Board reviewed the hybrid meeting format. Members recognised the benefits of in-person discussion while emphasising the importance of retaining remote access. Different formats may be appropriate for different types of meeting.

The Board supported considering a mixture of hybrid and online meetings during 2027 and exploring opportunities for closer engagement with IPIM.

Actions

- Jodie and Sally to consider the 2027 meeting cycle and whether to trial a two-hybrid, two-online model.
- Jodie, Sally and IPIM to explore whether one future meeting could support closer connection between IPIAB and IPIM.

6. Secretary transition from end 2026

Sally confirmed that she will step down as Secretary at the end of 2026 while remaining a member of the Advisory Board. Expressions of interest in the Secretary role were invited. Appropriate handover arrangements will be made with the incoming Secretary.

Actions

- Board members interested in the Secretary role to contact Jodie or Sally.
- Jodie and Sally to identify possible candidates if necessary.
- Sally to support the handover to the incoming Secretary.

7. Any other business

No further substantive business was raised. Jodie thanked Kilburn & Strode for hosting and thanked those who attended and helped organise the meeting.