

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**22 March 2010**

### **IFB STRENGTHENS INFRASTRUCTURE IN FIGHT AGAINST INSURANCE FRAUD**

Following consultation between the respective Boards of the Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB) and the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB), the IFB tabled a proposal to the Association of British Insurers' General Insurance Council (GIC) on 18<sup>th</sup> March to enter into an agreement with MIB for support services. The IFB's steps to use established industry resources and expertise has been welcomed by insurance leaders and further affirms the commitment to the long term future of IFB.

The IFB and MIB will remain independent legal entities with separate Boards and continue to be based at their existing locations. The strategic objectives for the two organisations remain unchanged and each will continue to deliver distinct services for the insurance sector. The IFB brand will remain a discrete industry asset which will continue to be leveraged independently.

Under the terms of the arrangement IFB staff will transfer to a separate company formed by MIB. Support services such as HR, finance and project management will be provided to IFB via the new company. This will deliver operational efficiencies and additional opportunities to reduce costs through increased purchasing power. The model provides IFB with enhanced operational resilience and augments the platform for future expansion of its services.

The recruitment process for a new Head of Unit at IFB is underway in parallel with this activity and remains a key priority for IFB's Board.

David Neave, Chairman of IFB comments: "Strengthening the organisational infrastructure in this way allows IFB to focus resource on delivering its vital services to members, expanding its remit in line with the industry's anti-fraud strategy and continuing to represent the industry as a collective force and powerful brand in the fight against fraud."

Ashton West, chief executive at MIB commented on the developments: "MIB is in a good position to support the management of IFB through the use of support services which will also benefit MIB and its members. MIB is a not-for-profit company funded through a levy and governed by motor insurers. The governance of IFB will remain with its directors and the current funding arrangements with the existing members will remain unaltered."

A project management team comprising key managers at IFB and MIB is in place to manage the transition to the new model and ensure business as usual for IFB members.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **The Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB)**

The Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB) launched on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2006 was formed to provide a cost effective, tactical solution for the detection and prevention of organised, cross industry fraud, supporting the wider Association of British Insurers' industry fraud strategy. The IFB leads or co-ordinates the industry response to the identification of criminal fraud networks and works closely with the Police and law enforcement agencies. [www.insurancefraudbureau.org](http://www.insurancefraudbureau.org)

#### **Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB)**

The Motor Insurers' Bureau ([www.mib.org.uk](http://www.mib.org.uk)) aims to significantly reduce the level and impact of uninsured driving by working closely with partners across government and the insurance industry. The Bureau guarantees compensation to victims involved in accidents with drivers who have no insurance or failed to stop. The Motor Insurance Database, introduced in 2001, is the only central record of more than 35 million registered vehicles in the UK. The MID supports a range of users entitled to different levels of information about insured vehicles, including the police, solicitors, the DVLA and the public.

All drivers can check their vehicle registration appears on the MID today at [www.askMID.com](http://www.askMID.com). Since 2005, more than 620,000 uninsured vehicles have been seized by police using ANPR technology.

The Continuous Insurance Enforcement (CIE) scheme scheduled to be in place by 2011, will identify vehicles that appear to be kept without insurance. The registered keeper will be reminded that insurance is a legal requirement and failure to have valid insurance will result in a fixed penalty.

MIB has built up expertise in managing services for insurers and enforcement bodies using the Motor Insurance Database. These have delivered significant benefits for members, reduced the levels of uninsured driving by 20% in the last four years and assisted with the prevention of crime.

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