



Extra-ordinary Meeting of the BBC Board

MINUTES

18 November 2020
Held by Video Conference

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Apologies and conflicts of interest
2. Panorama Investigation
3. AOB

ATTENDANCE

Present

- David Clementi Chairman
- Tim Davie Director-General
- Nicholas Serota Senior independent director
- Shirley Garrood Non-executive director
- Tanni Grey-Thompson Non-executive director
- Ian Hargreaves Non-executive director
- Tom Ilube Non-executive director
- Ken MacQuarrie Director, Nations and Regions
- Charlotte Moore Director, Content
- Steve Morrison Non-executive director
- Ashley Steel Non-executive director
- Fran Unsworth Director, News and Current Affairs

- Apologies: Elan Closs Stephens

With

- Phil Harrold Company Secretary
- Jo Clarke Secretary to the Board
- Glyn Isherwood Chief Financial Officer
- John Shield Director, Communications
- Sarah Jones Group General Counsel

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1. Apologies and Conflicts of Interest

1.1 Elan Closs Stephens was an apology for this meeting, which was called at short notice.

2. *Panorama* Investigation

2.1 The Board discussed the proposal that Lord Dyson should lead the investigation into allegations that *Panorama* obtained Princess Diana's interview by improper means. Directors agreed that his experience and independent position were needed to undertake an investigation of this nature.

2.2 The Board approved the appointment of Lord Dyson to lead the investigation. Directors noted that he would be supported by Fieldfisher solicitors, who would provide the independent secretariat and legal advice to the investigation.

2.3 The Board discussed the Terms of Reference for the investigation, as proposed by Lord Dyson, as follows:

- What steps did the BBC and in particular Martin Bashir take with a view to obtaining the *Panorama* interview on 20 November 1995 with Diana, Princess of Wales? This will involve a consideration of all the relevant evidence including (i) the mocked up bank statements purporting to show payments to a former employee of Earl Spencer (ii) the purported payments to members of the Royal Households; and (iii) the other matters recently raised by Earl Spencer not limited to the matters published in the Daily Mail on 7 November 2020.
- Were those steps appropriate, having regard in particular to the BBC's editorial standards prevailing at the time?
- To what extent did the actions of the BBC and in particular Martin Bashir influence Diana, Princess of Wales's decision to give an interview?
- What knowledge did the BBC have in 1995 and 1996 of the relevant evidence referred to at paragraph 1 above?
- Having regard to what was known at the time of its investigation in 1995 and 1996, how effectively did the BBC investigate the circumstances leading to the interview?

2.4 The Board approved the proposed Terms of Reference for the investigation.

3. AOB

3.1 There was no other business.

Approved by the Board: _____ (Chairman)

_____ (Date)