



Meeting of the BBC Board

MINUTES

25 April 2024
Pacific Quay, Glasgow

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Chair's Introduction
2. Apologies and Conflicts of Interest
3. Minutes and Matters Arising
4. Committee Reports
5. Executive Reporting
6. Partners on iPlayer
7. Future Strategy
8. Sports Rights
9. Property Strategy
10. Thematic Review of Migration: Board Statement and Implementation Plan
11. Papers for Approval
12. AOB

ATTENDANCE

Present

- Samir Shah Chair
- Tim Davie Director-General
- Shumeet Banerji Non-executive director
- Damon Buffini Non-executive director (items 1-8)
- Robbie Gibb Non-executive director (items 1-7)
- Muriel Gray Non-executive director
- Chris Jones Non-executive director
- Charlotte Moore Chief Content Officer (items 1-8)
- Nicholas Serota Non-executive director
- Michael Smyth Non-executive director
- Marinella Soldi Non-executive director
- Leigh Tavaziva Group Chief Operating Officer
- Deborah Turness CEO, News and Current Affairs

Apologies: None

With

- Phil Harrold Company Secretary
- Jo Clarke Secretary to the Board
- Gautam Rangarajan Director, Strategy (items 5 onwards)
- Sarah Calcott COO, Nations (items 5 and 6)
- Alan Dickson Chief Financial Officer (items 5, 6 and 9)
- David Jordan Director, Editorial Policy and Standards (item 5)
- David Moody Director, Strategy, BBC Studios (item 6)
- Sophie Garnham CRBA Director (item 6)
- Jo Sherlock Group Rights and Commercial Director (item 6)
- Dan McGolpin Director, iPlayer and Channels (item 6)
- Alice Macandrew Group Director, Corporate Affairs (item 6)
- Richard Armstrong CRBA Director (item 8)
- Phil Bernie Interim Head of Sport (item 8)
- Alan Bainbridge Director, Workplace (item 9)
- Peter Johnston Director, Editorial Reviews and Complaints (item 10)

BOARD MINUTES 25 APRIL 2024

1. Chair's Introduction

- 1.1 The Chair introduced the business of the Board meeting. Following the previous day's future strategy sessions, a summary of outcomes and next steps would be tabled for Board members to agree.

2. Apologies and Conflicts of Interest

- 2.1 There were no apologies for the meeting.
- 2.2 No conflicts of interest were declared in addition to those already recorded. It was noted that Robbie Gibb had not received the paperwork for the Sports Rights item and would step out of the meeting ahead of its discussion.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- 3.1 The Minutes from the 21 March Board meeting were approved.
- 3.2 The Board noted the Matters Arising paper. Directors noted an update on changes to guidance regarding staff acting as expert witnesses.

4. Committee Reports

- 4.1 The Board noted and discussed written reports on the most recent meetings of the Commercial Board, and the Fair Trading Committee.

5. Executive Reporting

Director-General's and Executive Report

- 5.1 The Board noted and discussed the Director-General's and Executive Report which covered the period since the last meeting of the Board. In addition, Directors noted updates on the Across the UK project and the completion of the Staff Survey. A new Head of Sport had been appointed and an overview of the Sports Strategy had been scheduled for the Board in the Autumn.

- 5.2 The Director-General and Chief Operating Officer reported to the Board on the departure of Huw Edwards.
- 5.3 The Board noted the Chief Operating Officer's report. Discussion focussed on the close monitoring of the safety of News teams following heightened tensions in the Middle East, both in the region and in the UK.
- 5.5 Directors discussed the Board reporting schedule for monitoring the £170m savings plans agreed in the Budget.
- 5.6 The Board noted an update on Collective Newsroom India. An full assessment of the governance requirements for international services was scheduled to come to the Board in the summer.
- 5.7 The Chief Operating Officer provided an update on ongoing investigations into Tim Westwood and Russell Brand during their time at the BBC.

Quarterly Performance Report

- 5.8 The Board considered the quarterly performance report for January-March. Directors discussed the audience performance scorecard, focussing on perceptions of the BBC.
- 5.9 The Board noted an update from the Chief Operating Officer on organisational and financial performance. The Board discussed Health and Safety performance.
- 5.10 The Board noted and discussed the Editorial Standards Report.

iPlayer Quarterly Update

- 5.11 The Board noted the quarterly iPlayer update.

6. iPlayer Strategy

- 6.1 The Board considered a paper which reviewed the strategy for iPlayer agreed in December 2022, and recommended its continuation.
- 6.2 The Board discussed the paper. Directors requested a number of additional pieces of work to support discussion at the June Board meeting, including an implementation plan, a regulatory assessment and a business case.

7. Future Strategy

- 7.1 The Board noted and approved a summary of the decisions and next steps agreed at the previous day's strategy session. A detailed timetable for the work would be developed by the Executive and return to the May meeting of the Board.

8 Sports Rights

(8.1- 8.3 redacted for commercial confidentiality)

- 8.1 The Board considered a paper requesting a mandate for the acquisition of sports rights.
- 8.4 The Board approved the mandate for the acquisition of Sports Rights and a delegation to the Director-General, Chief Content Officer and Chief Operating Officer to oversee the bid process and the final terms of the acquisition.

9. Property Strategy

- 9.1 The Board noted an overview of the BBC's property strategy. Directors discussed the contractual constraints of the current strategy, and provided feedback on how it could be more effectively aligned with the Across the UK strategy in future.
- 9.2 The Nations Board members would consider how the Nations Headquarters could be more fully utilised by their local communities.

10. Thematic Review of Migration: Board Statement and Implementation Plan

- 10.1 Following the approval for publication at its meeting in April, the Board approved a Board Statement to accompany the publication of the Thematic Review of BBC Coverage of Migration on 7 May.
- 10.2 The Board also discussed and approved the implementation plan for the report's recommendations, which included all-staff communication, Q&A opportunities with Madeleine Sumption, targeted briefings, practical resources and a six month review of progress. The Board agreed that the Nations Committees would also benefit from a session at their next meetings on the findings of the report and their implementation.

11. Papers for Approval

- 11.1 The Board approved the re-appointment of Catherine Claydon as an Independent Trustee of the BBC Pension Trust Ltd Board for a third three year term from 1 June 2024.
- 11.2 The Board received a briefing providing a progress update on the Public Interest Tests for the proposed DAB+ music stations and changes to 5 Sports Extra.
- 11.3 The Board approved the commencement of the re-procurement process for the BBC's Utilities contracts, Energy, Gas and Water.
- 11.4 The Board noted a paper providing the Board with a legal briefing on the implications of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act on the work of the BBC, including on our journalism as requested by Board Directors.
- 11.5 The Board approved changes to the delegated authority of the Commercial Board.

12 AOB

- 12.1 There were no other issues.