



Meeting of the BBC Board

MINUTES

14 May 2024
Broadcasting House, London

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Chair's Introduction
2. Apologies and Conflicts of Interest
3. Minutes and Matters Arising
4. Committee Reports
5. Future Strategy
6. General Election Coverage: Preparation and Risk
7. World Service Funding Mandate
8. Net Zero and Sustainability
9. Papers for Approval
10. AOB

ATTENDANCE

Present

- Samir Shah Chair
- Tim Davie Director-General
- Shumeet Banerji Non-executive director
- Robbie Gibb Non-executive director
- Muriel Gray Non-executive director
- Chris Jones Non-executive director
- Charlotte Moore Chief Content Officer
- 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: Damon Buffini

With

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| Phil Harrold | Company Secretary |
| Jo Clarke | Secretary to the Board |
| Gautam Rangarajan | Director, Strategy and Performance (item 5 onwards) |
| Sam Taylor | COO, News and Current Affairs (item 6) |
| Jonathan Munro | Deputy Director, News and Current Affairs (item 6) |
| Balram Veliath | Director, Quality, Risk and Assurance (item 6) |
| Rhodri Talfan Davies | Director, Nations (item 6) |
| Alice Macandrew | Group Director, Corporate Affairs (items 7 and 8) |
| Alan Dickson | Chief Financial Officer (item 8) |
| Danielle Mulder | Director of Sustainability (item 8) |
| Paul Oldfield | Director, Policy (item 9) |
| Uzair Qadeer | Chief People Officer (item 9) |
| Chris Rowsell | Director, Regulation (item 9) |

BOARD MINUTES 14 MAY 2024

1. Chair's Introduction

- 1.1 The Chair noted that this was a shorter meeting than usual, given it had been added to the schedule at short notice in a return to monthly meetings; he thanked Board members for making themselves available.

2. Apologies and Conflicts of Interest

- 2.1 Damon Buffini was an apology for the meeting.
- 2.2 No conflicts of interest were declared in addition to those already recorded.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- 3.1 The Minutes from the 25 April Board meeting were approved.
- 3.2 The Board noted the Matters Arising paper.

4. Committee Reports

- 4.1 The Board noted and discussed written reports on the most recent meetings of the England and Scotland Committees.
- 4.2 The Board noted an oral update on the meeting of the Editorial Guidelines and Standards Committee which had taken place in the morning. The Chair of the Committee reported on the publication of the thematic review of BBC coverage of migration, and the internal communications which had accompanied it. Other matters of discussion had included the final draft of the terms of reference for the thematic review of portrayal and representation following agreement from the two reviewers; the review of the Editorial Guidelines; complaints and editorial issues; and, upcoming editorial risks.

Annual Report and Accounts: Process

- 4.3 The Board noted an update on the governance process for the completion of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2023-24.

5. Future Strategy

- 5.1 The Board discussed a paper setting out the key decisions taken at the Glasgow awayday and Board meeting in April, and confirmed the strategic projects which were to be undertaken over the coming months.
- 5.2 The Board noted and agreed the summary of decisions and next steps, including the timetable for Board engagement. Additional monitoring and reporting of two key workstreams related to delivering the plan would be put in place, and would be led by two non-executive Board members.

6. General Election Coverage: Preparation and Risk

- 6.1 The Board received a briefing updating them on the editorial and organisational risks around the forthcoming General Election and how they would be managed. These included the increased danger of cyber-attacks and disinformation.
- 6.2 It was agreed that the Board would receive a note setting out risks and mitigations in detail following the meeting, and that the Audit and Risk Committee would schedule a session on the editorial risk posed by AI and new technologies.

7. World Service Funding

- 7.1 The Board approved the proposed approach to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office regarding the future funding of the World Service.

8 Net Zero and Sustainability

- 8.1 The Board considered a paper setting out the BBC's sustainability strategy and plans to achieve net zero status by 2050. The paper also set out the BBC's enhanced sustainability disclosure requirements and net zero transition plan, which would be published later in the year.
- 8.2 The Board discussed the sustainability strategy: which focussed on the decarbonisation of its operations, reducing their environmental impact and maximising the positive impact of its climate and nature content. Directors discussed how it aligned with the BBC's Value for All strategy and workplace objectives, and contributed to the savings plans. Directors agreed that it would be useful to engage the Next Generation Committee in the work more fully.

9. Policy and Regulation

Mid-term Review: Changes to the Framework Agreement

- 9.1 The Board approved draft changes to the BBC Charter Framework Agreement in order to enact the recommendations from the Mid-term Review conducted by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport on the governance of BBC. Authority for approval of any final amendments to the text was delegated to the Chair and Director-General.

BBC Apprentices

[Paragraph 9.3 redacted for future publication]

- 9.2 The Board approved a more flexible approach to supporting apprentices which took account of the BBC's changed financial and headcount situation, whilst allowing the BBC to retain its position as a leading apprenticeship employer.

Regulatory Briefing: Board Responsibilities

- 9.4 The Board received a briefing from the Controller, Regulation, on the key principles of the BBC's regulatory framework, particularly in relation to the regulatory approvals required for changes to the BBC's public and commercial services, and the Fair Trading principles.

10. Papers for Approval

- 10.1 The Board noted the Board meeting schedule for 2025-26.

11 AOB

- 11.1 The Board noted that the rights to show the 2026 and 2030 Men's Football World Cups had been acquired within budget.
- 11.2 The Board noted an update on the DCMS appointment of a Board member for Wales.