Meeting of the BBC Board

MINUTES

19 July 2018
Broadcasting House, London

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Apologies and Conflicts of Interest
2. Minutes from the 21 June Board Meeting
3. Executive Reports
4. Licence Fee Reform
5. UKTV
6. BBC Sounds
7. Committee Reports
8. AOB
ATTENDANCE

Present

- David Clementi  Chairman
- Tony Hall  Director-General
- Anne Bulford  Deputy Director-General
- Simon Burke  Non-executive director
- Tim Davie  Chief Executive Officer, BBC Studios
- Tanni Grey-Thompson  Non-executive Director
- Ken MacQuarrie  Director, Nations and Regions
- Ian Hargreaves  Non-executive director
- Tom Ilube  Non-executive director
- Steve Morrison  Non-executive director
- Nicholas Serota  Non-executive director
- Elan Closs Stephens  Non-executive director
- Ashley Steel  Non-executive director

Apologies: None

With

- Phil Harrold  Company Secretary
- Jo Clarke  Secretariat Manager
- David Jordan  Director, Editorial Policy and Standards (items 1-3)
- Alison Kirkham  Controller, Factual Commissioning (items 1-3)
- James Purnell  Director, Radio and Education (items 1-4 and 6)
- Fran Unsworth  Director, News (items 1-3)
- Sarah Jones  Group General Counsel (items 1-3)
- Gautam Rangarajan  Director, Strategy (items 1-5)
- Clare Sumner  Director, Policy (items 4 and 6)
- Glyn Isherwood  Group Finance and Operations Director (item 5)
- David Moody  Director, Strategy (item 5)
BOARD MINUTES – 19 JULY 2018

1. Apologies and Conflicts of Interest
1.1 There were no apologies for this meeting. As CEO of BBC Studios, Tim Davie left the meeting for discussion of the programme investment case and had no access to the related paperwork.

2. Minutes from the 21 June Board
2.1 The minutes from the 21 June Board meeting were approved.

3. Executive Reports
3.1 The Director-General opened his report to the Board by summarising the judgment from the Cliff Richard case. The Board noted that the BBC had apologised for the distress caused to Sir Cliff, and accepted that News would do things differently today. However, the facts of the coverage were not disputed and the judgment laid down by Justice Mann had serious implications for journalism because it concluded that Sir Cliff Richard’s name should not have been reported prior to charge. The Board noted that the Executive were considering whether or not to appeal. The Director-General agreed to keep the Board informed on progress with the point of principle.
3.2 This year’s BBC Proms season had begun. It promised to be a very exciting summer of music.
3.3 The Director-General briefed the Board on a diversity summit convened by Ofcom which he had attended.
3.4 The Board noted how many fair pay queries had been received and resolved so far. Separately, Directors asked the Executive to consider how best to monitor the cultural change programme initiated by the progression reviews and report progress to the Board.
3.5 The Board discussed the critical projects portfolio.
Programme investment Case

[3.7 redacted for commercial confidentiality]

3.6 The Board considered a programme investment case for *Strictly Come Dancing*, the flagship entertainment series for BBC One which formed a key part of the peak Autumn schedule, along with *Strictly: It Takes Two*, its companion programme.

3.8 The Board approved the programme investment case and delegated authority to the Director-General to approve the final deal terms should they vary from what had been presented.

4 Licence Fee Reform

4.1 The Board considered the Government provision for the over 75s concession ending after 2020. The BBC is required to hold a public consultation in advance of this even if no changes are proposed. Directors discussed preparatory work for the consultation.

5. UKTV

[5.2 to 5.6 redacted for commercial confidentiality]

5.1 The Board received an update on the ongoing negotiations with Discovery (DCI) regarding the future of UKTV.

5.7 The Board approved the parameters of a potential deal with Discovery and gave the deal team a mandate to negotiate long form agreements.

5.8 The Board noted the due diligence and valuation work on the proposed deal as prepared by KPMG on behalf of the Board.

6. BBC Sounds

*BBC Sounds Phase 2: Regulatory Assessment*

[paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 redacted for reasons of future publication]
BBC Sounds Phase 1: Revisions to Assessment

6.3 The Board considered a paper which revised two data errors in the materiality assessment for BBC Sounds Phase 1 and asked the Board to consider whether their decision on the materiality of the proposed change remained unchanged.

6.4 The Board approved the amended materiality assessment and agreed that the changes were still not material.

7 Committee Reports

7.1 The Chair of the Editorial Guidelines and Standards Committee reported on the Committee’s latest meeting. The Board noted an update on the progress of the revision of the Editorial Guidelines and an upcoming piece of work on perceptions of impartiality, which would come to the Board in the Autumn.

7.2 The Chair of the Audit Committee reported on the Committee’s most recent meeting which had focused on risk-related issues. The revised risk framework was now in place, which had an increased emphasis on physical security, and the critical projects list would now be subject to scrutiny by the Audit Committee on an ongoing basis.

8. AOB

8.1 The Board noted the appointment of EY to act as consultants to the Board’s Commercial Review on the basis of the Terms of Reference approved by the Board.

Approved by the Board: ___________________________ (Chairman)

__________________________ (Date)