

# **BBC** Executive Board

**10 October 2011**

**1130 - 1430**

**Rm 3028, Broadcasting House, London**

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## **Attendees**

### **Present**

Mark Thompson (Chair)	Director-General
Helen Boaden	Director, News
Tim Davie	Director, Audio and Music (A&M)
Zarin Patel	Group Finance Director
Ralph Rivera	Director, Future Media
Caroline Thomson	Chief Operating Officer
Marcus Agius	Senior non-executive director
Val Gooding	Non-executive director
Mike Lynch	Non-executive director
Robert Webb	Non-executive director

### **With**

Jessica Cecil	Head of the Director-General's Office
Lynsey Tweddle	Head of the Executive Unit (secretary)
Christina Roski	Business Manager, Executive Unit
Chris Waiting	Chief Adviser to the Chief Operating Officer
John Tate	Director, Policy and Strategy (item 2)
Gautam Rangarajan	Controller, Public Service, Policy and Strategy (item 2)
Paul Mylrea	Director of Communications (item 2)
Nicholas Eldred	General Counsel (item 2)
David Jordan	Director, Editorial Policy and Standards (item 2)
John Smith	Chief Executive, BBC Worldwide (items 4 and 5)
Rebecca Hoyle	Acting Controller, Business Strategy (items 4 and 5)

### **Apologies**

Simon Burke	Non-executive director
George Entwistle	Director, Vision

# **1 Minutes from the Executive Board meeting on 12 September 2011**

- 1.1 The minutes from the September Board meeting were approved and the summary for publication noted.

## **2 General update**

### ***Delivering Quality First***

- 2.1 The Board reviewed the launch of Delivering Quality First.
- 2.2 The Board congratulated the teams that had been involved in developing and launching the plans. There had been extensive staff engagement leading up to the launch, as well as a number of press briefings.
- 2.3 Focus was now on implementation, although it was noted that the BBC Trust consultation would run until the end of December.
- 2.4 Further staff engagement was also planned, with more director involvement and leadership briefings.

### ***Editorial assurance report/Leveson enquiry***

- 2.5 The Board received an update on the editorial assurance report commissioned by Mark Thompson and also the information being provided to the Leveson enquiry. It was noted that the BBC would be providing a large amount of information to the enquiry as well as a witness statement from the Director-General.
- 2.6 The Board noted that Nicholas Eldred, General Counsel, would be leaving the BBC at the end of the month and thanked him for his valued contribution to the BBC over the ten years he had been with the corporation.

## **3 Commercial update**

- 3.1 John Smith provided an update on commercial matters.

## **4 Six month update on the BBC Worldwide strategy**

- 4.1 The paper provided an update on the five priority proposals in the BBC Worldwide strategy, further detail on US production activity and year-to-date performance for BBC Worldwide and its divisions.
- 4.2 **The Board discussed and noted the update and approved it for submission to the Trust.**

## **5 Director updates**

### **a) Audiences and all services**

- 5.1 Executive Board discussed the audience update which featured Vision this month.

**b) Regulatory and industry**

5.2 Caroline Thomson provided an update on regulatory and industry matters, noting in particular the recent European Court of Justice case concerning the right to broadcast Premier League football matches. The Board noted that the implications of the ruling were complex and had an interesting bearing in the online environment.

5.3 The Board also noted the death of Steve Jobs. Mark Thompson advised that he would write to Apple to express the BBC's condolences.

***BBC One News in Peak quota in 2012:***

5.4 The Board considered a paper regarding BBC One News in Peak quota in 2012.

**5.5 The Board approved the paper for submission to the Trust.**

**c) Finance**

5.6 The Board noted the Finance Report. Zarin Patel advised that she would update Simon Burke by telephone as he was unable to attend the meeting.

***Procurement of services for the management, collection and enforcement of the licence fee – update on progress***

5.7 Zarin also updated the Board on progress with Project Lion, noting that the Board would be asked to make a decision at its November meeting.

***NAO VFM study : The BBC's management of its efficiency programme***

5.8 The Board discussed the NAO Value for Money study relating to the BBC's efficiency programme, noting the highlights of the report and the new arrangements between the BBC and the NAO.

**d) Finance**

5.9 Helen Boaden provided an update on News matters, noting in particular the importance of precise language when covering complex matters such as the economy.

**Papers for approval**

**6 Quarterly Property Report**

*As a Non-executive Director of a company involved in the bidding process, Robert Webb declared a conflict of interest in relation to the sale of Television Centre – he therefore left the room for discussions relating to this matter.*

6.1 This paper provided the first quarterly property update to the Executive Board for 2011/12.

6.2 The Board received an update on the sale of Television Centre and the options available. It was noted that the Digital Media Initiative had started to roll out successfully in Salford and the BBC had also started broadcasting from the site. The Board noted that the WI project was on track.

**6.3 The Board approved the report for submission to the Trust.**

## **7 North Division Board Terms of Reference**

- 7.1 This paper provided the Terms of Reference for the North Division. As the North Division Board had been established under the delegated authority of the Executive Board, the Terms of Reference were presented to the Board for approval.
- 7.2 The Board approved the Terms of Reference, noting that they were aligned with the North Finance Scheme of Delegation.

## **8 Any other business**

- 8.1 The Board had considered Professor Jones's report on the BBC coverage of science in June 2011. The Board asked for an update and noted that this would return in January 2012.