Extra-ordinary meeting of the BBC Board

MINUTES

5 March 2020
Broadcasting House, London, W1A 1AA

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Sports rights – Six Nations
ATTENDANCE

Present

○ David Clementi  Chairman
○ Tony Hall  Director-General
○ Shirley Garrood  Non-executive director
○ Ian Hargreaves  Non-executive director
○ Tom Ilube  Non-executive director (by phone)
○ Ken MacQuarrie  Director, Nations and Regions
○ Steve Morrison  Non-executive director (by phone)
○ Nicholas Serota  Non-executive director (by phone)
○ Elan Closs Stephens  Non-executive director (by phone)
○ Ashley Steel  Non-executive director (by phone)
○ Fran Unsworth  Director, News and Current Affairs (by phone)

Apologies:

○ Tim Davie  Chief Executive Officer, BBC Studios
○ Tanni Grey-Thompson  Non-executive director

With

○ Phil Harrold  Company Secretary
○ Chris Sandford  Secretary
○ Glyn Isherwood  Group Finance and Operations Director
○ Charlotte Moore  Director, Content
○ Barbara Slater  Director, Sport
○ Richard Armstrong  Head of Rights and Business Affairs, Sport
1. **Sports rights – Six Nations**

[Paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 redacted for commercial confidentiality]

1.1 The Board discussed a proposed mandate for the BBC to bid for rights to the Six Nations rugby championship, which were currently being tendered by the Rugby Football Union. The BBC currently held the rights in a shared arrangement with ITV and this arrangement had been seen as a success. The strategic importance of the tournament in the nations was also noted, as was the ability of the coverage to deliver underserved and unique audiences.

1.2 Discussing the proposed approach to bidding and the mandate level the Board noted that the rights costs involved would make the Six Nations very high compared to other properties.

1.3 Having discussed the proposal set out in the paper, it was agreed the rights were a key property that should be pursued. The Board approved the approach and mandate set out. This was subject to final confirmation of the legal position in relation to the bid approach and also to the Board being kept up to date on the progress of the tender.

Approved by the Board: ________________________________ (Chairman)

______________________________ (Date)