MINUTES OF THE BBC TRUST MEETING

Held on Thursday 17 January 2013
at the BBC Trust offices, Great Portland Street, London

Present:

Lord Patten Chairman
Diane Coyle Vice Chairman
Sonita Alleyne Trust member
Richard Ayre Trust member
Anthony Fry Trust member
Alison Hastings Trust member for England
David Liddiment Trust member
Bill Matthews Trust member for Scotland
Aideen McGinley Trust member for Northern Ireland
Elan Closs Stephens Trust member for Wales
Suzanna Taverne Trust member
Lord Williams Trust member

In attendance from the Trust Unit:

Nicholas Kroll Director, BBC Trust
Alex Towers Deputy Director
Phil Harrold Head of Governance
Kate Atkins Senior Adviser, Governance
Fran O’Brien Head of Editorial Standards
Mark Devane Head of Communications
Peter De Val Head of Legal
Jon Cowdock Head of Business Strategy
Alison Gold Head of Public Services Strategy
Georgina Hodges Chief Research and Audiences Adviser
Gareth Tuck Chief Financial Adviser
Karl Davies Chief Adviser, Wales
Shuba Krishnan Consultation Adviser, Strategy
**From the Executive:**

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<td>Amanda Rice</td>
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AGENDA

5 Minutes and matters arising

6 Committees and nations reports

7 Director's report

8 Pollard report

9 S4C Operating Agreement

10 Acting Director-General's monthly report

11 Annual equality and diversity report

12 Items for noting

13 Business handling and communications
5   MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

5.1 The Trust approved the minutes of meetings held on 13, 18 and 19 December 2012 as accurate records of proceedings. The Trust approved the publication of the minutes with no redactions.

5.2 The Trust noted the matters arising from previous meetings.

6   COMMITTEES AND NATIONS REPORTS

6.1 The Chairman said the Trust’s Remuneration and Appointments Committee had met the previous day. Members of the Executive’s Remuneration Committee had attended to provide an update on their approach to future executive director appointments.

6.2 The Chairman of the Trust’s Editorial Standards Committee said the committee was meeting later that day to consider topics for future impartiality reviews and seminars. Recommendations would be brought to the Trust in February.

6.3 The Trust members for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland provided an update on recent activity in their respective nations.

7   DIRECTOR’S REPORT

7.1 The Director, BBC Trust presented his report, which provided an overview of activity undertaken by the Trust and previewed the key issues to be considered by the Trust at the meeting.

7.2 Trust members noted the report by the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee on the former Director-General’s severance package. They agreed that the Trust should respond to the report and make its response public.

8   POLLARD REPORT

8.1 The Trust’s Head of Legal briefed members on outstanding issues following publication in December of the Pollard report into the BBC’s management of a Newsnight investigation into allegations of sexual abuse by Jimmy Savile.

8.2 Trust members considered privileged legal advice on whether grounds existed for seeking to recover some or all of the termination payment agreed with former Director-General George Entwistle. They accepted that there were no grounds for seeking to recover any of the payment.
Members also discussed issues around publication of appendices to the Pollard report and transcripts of interviews. They agreed that the Executive should publish these documents and lead the process of deciding what material should be redacted. They agreed that the Trust should approve any redactions proposed by the Executive and delegated authority to members Richard Ayre, Anthony Fry and Alison Hastings.

S4C OPERATING AGREEMENT

The Trust member for Wales presented the draft operating agreement which would govern the Trust’s new partnership with Welsh-language broadcaster S4C. It had previously been discussed – and endorsed - by the S4C Authority. Under the terms of the licence fee agreement between the Government and the BBC in 2010, the vast majority of S4C funding would come from the licence fee from April 2013.

Trust members noted that the draft operating agreement had been put out to public consultation and revised in the light of responses received. The operating agreement covered the remit and scope of S4C, its funding and performance framework and other operational matters.

The Trust approved the operating agreement, subject to minor drafting changes. The operating agreement would come into effect on 1 April 2013 and would be published.

ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL’S MONTHLY REPORT

The Acting Director-General noted the recent publication of a joint report by the Metropolitan Police and NSPCC, “Giving victims a voice”, on Jimmy Savile’s sexual offending. He said that, following the Savile scandal, the BBC had made progress in terms of rebuilding its reputation with audiences but still had more work to do, particularly in regaining trust.

The Acting Director-General updated Trust members on other issues, including the relaunch of BBC World News, now based in New Broadcasting House, central London.

He noted recent BBC programme highlights, including Strictly Come Dancing, the drama Last Tango in Halifax and the comedies Miranda and Mrs Brown’s Boys. He commended regional and local news teams across the UK for their reporting during the recent bad weather.

The Acting Director-General paid tribute to Alasdair Milne, Director-General between 1982 and 1987, who had died the previous week.

Trust members asked for their best wishes to be passed onto BBC presenter Andrew Marr, who was in hospital after suffering a stroke.
11 ANNUAL EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY REPORT

11.1 The Director, HR and the Head of Diversity presented the Executive’s annual equality and diversity report. The report, a requirement under the Equality Act 2010, covered the progress the Executive had made against its annual strategic equality and diversity objectives, published in January 2012.

11.2 Trust members discussed the report with the Executive, including progress against diversity targets and the impact of the BBC’s Delivering Quality First strategy. They noted a continued decline in the number of disabled staff in the BBC and asked the Executive to continue to improve opportunities for disabled staff.

11.3 The Trust approved the Executive’s annual equality and diversity report for publication by the end of January. The Trust would publish its own observations on the BBC’s arrangements for promoting equality in July, alongside the BBC’s Annual Report and Accounts.

12 ITEMS FOR NOTING

12.1 (a) Minutes from committees and Audience Councils
(b) Documents for sealing
(c) Freedom of Information Act section 36 decision

13 BUSINESS HANDLING AND COMMUNICATIONS

13.1 The Trust discussed the handling and communication of items considered at the meeting.