MINUTES OF THE BBC TRUST MEETING

Held on Monday 2 September 2013
by telephone

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
Mark Devane           Head of Communications
Peter De Val          Head of Legal
Gareth Tuck           Chief Financial Adviser

From the Executive:

Tony Hall           Director-General
Anne Bulford        Managing Director, Finance and Operations
James Purnell       Director, Strategy and Digital
Jessica Cecil       Chief of Staff, Director-General's Office
AGENDA

96 Severance pay, National Audit Office supplementary report
96.1 The Chairman introduced the meeting, which had been called to discuss the supplementary report provided by the National Audit Office (NAO) to the Trust regarding severance payments for senior BBC managers. The Chairman noted that the report had already been forwarded to the Public Accounts Committee under the cover of a letter from Trust member Anthony Fry. Members noted the material that had been provided to the Public Accounts Committee and agreed that it should be published later that week.

96.2 Members discussed the findings outlined in the supplementary note and agreed that the findings confirmed the conclusions of the NAO’s earlier report on this matter. The supplementary note provided further evidence that, too often, severance payments were approved which exceeded entitlement under the BBC’s previous policy without documented explanation as to why these variations had been approved.

96.3 Members noted that the Executive planned to publish later that week a report from auditors KPMG into severance payments made in the period July 2006 to December 2009. The conclusions of the KPMG work mirrored those from the NAO’s study.

96.4 Members discussed the request of the Public Accounts Committee to provide the names of recipients of severance payments and agreed that the Executive should write to the recipients once the Committee had provided its explanation of the public interest in receiving this information. Trust members and the Executive discussed the legal advice that had been received on this issue.