MINUTES OF THE BBC TRUST MEETING

Held on 13 September 2016
by conference call

Present:
- Rona Fairhead, Chairman
- Sir Roger Carr, Vice-Chairman
- Sonita Alleyne, Trust member
- Richard Ayre, Trust member
- Mark Damazer, Trust member
- Mark Florman, Trust member for England
- 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

Apologies:
- Nick Prettejohn, Trust member

From the Trust Unit:
- Alex Towers, Director, Trust
- Kate Atkins, Chief Adviser, Governance
- Peter De Val, Head of Legal
- Alison Gold, Head of Public Services Strategy
- Kath MacLeod, Head of Communications
- Fran O’Brien, Head of Editorial Standards
- Tristan Pedelty, Head of Policy and Charter Review
- Gareth Tuck, Head of Finance
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81 DRAFT CHARTER

81.1 The Chairman said the purpose of this meeting was to update Trust members on the draft BBC Charter and Framework Agreement, which was due to be published later that week.

81.2 The Director said good progress had been made on many of the issues discussed by the Trust at its previous meetings, including the process for Government appointments to the new BBC Board. Overall, tough but constructive negotiations had resulted in a draft Charter that put the BBC on a strong footing for the future.

81.3 However, discussions were continuing with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on a number of other areas, including BBC funding, where there was reason to hope that the Government had now accepted the Trust's argument that a one-year funding period in the middle of the Charter could undermine the BBC's independence. The Trust had also said that the BBC should receive sufficient notice in advance of any funding settlement and that the public and parliament should contribute to the debate on any such settlement.

81.4 The Director said details around the scope of future National Audit Office reviews were not yet resolved, including how the editorial exemption would work, and that this would be an issue to pursue through a separate MOU.

81.5 The Head of Communications outlined Trust plans for responding to the publication of the draft Charter.

81.6 The Chairman thanked Trust Unit staff who had worked with DCMS officials on the draft Charter and Agreement.

82 APPOINTMENTS

82.1 The Chairman updated members of the Trust on other issues related to the Charter, including the handling of future appointments.