

**MINUTES OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF
THE OFCOM BOARD HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2016 IN LONDON**

Present

Patricia Hodgson	Chairman
Sheila Noakes	Deputy Chairman
Sharon White	Chief Executive
Lynne Brindley	Member
Graham Mather	Member
Bill Emmott	Member
Ben Verwaayen	Member
Jonathan Oxley	Executive Member and Group Director, Competition*
Steve Unger	Executive Member and Group Director, Strategy, International, Technology and Economists

*Attended via telephone, minute 5.

In attendance

Polly Weitzman	General Counsel
Graham Howell	Corporation Secretary
Jenny Leyland	Assistant Secretary to the Corporation

**Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 18 January 2016 – Minutes 222(16) - and
Matters Arising**

1. The minutes of the Ofcom Board meeting held on 18 January 2016 were **APPROVED** for signature as a correct record. There were no matters arising which were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Chairman’s Report – oral

2. The Chairman provided her report to the Board. Since the last meeting the appointment of Charles Gurassa as Chairman of Channel 4 with effect from 28 January 2016 had been confirmed and announced.

Reports from other Non-Executive Board Members – oral

3. The Deputy Chairman, Lynne Brindley and Graham Mather reported on their recent attendance at consultation events held in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland respectively to discuss proposals set out in Ofcom’s draft Annual Plan for 2016/17.

Chief Executive’s Report - Board Paper 11(16)

4. Sharon White presented her report to the Board including an oral update on current issues.

Digital Communications Review: Draft Executive Summary – Board Paper 12(16)

5. The Board discussed and commented on the draft executive summary for the Digital Communications Review (DCR) document and were updated on the approach to implementation of the wider strategy. The Board would be sent a draft of the full DCR document for comments. The Board **AGREED** to delegate approval of the final document for publication to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Graham Mather.

Review of the General Conditions – Board Paper 13(16)

6. The Board was updated on a review which was being undertaken of the ‘General Conditions for Entitlement’ for the electronic communications sector. The team would return to the Board later in the year with the main proposals for change.

Broadcasting Institutional Update – Board Paper 14(16)

7. The Board discussed and noted an update on Ofcom’s engagement with Sir David Clementi’s review of the governance and regulation of the BBC.

8. With the prospect of a referendum being called on the UK’s membership of the European Union, the Board noted that if needed the Election Committee would be set up to consider and adjudicate on any complaints received. Bill Emmott declared an interest and noted that he would not be involved with the Committee should it need to meet.

Governance Update: Non-Executive Board Membership – Board Paper 15(16)

9. The Board discussed and noted an update on the current position on the proposed appointments of three new non-executive Members by the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Ofcom Board Forward Plan 2016 – Board Paper 16(16)

10. The Board discussed the Board forward plan and comments were noted.

Information Papers

11. The Board briefly discussed the following information papers and comments were noted.

- Network Structures, Technologies and Evolution – Board Paper 17(16)
- World Radio Conference 2015: Results and Observations – Board Paper 18(16)
- Digital Economy Bill Update – Board Paper 19(16)
- Strategic Risk Register – Board Paper 19(16)
- Management Information Report – Board Paper 20(16).

Minutes of other Boards/Panels/Committees

12. The Board noted without comment the minutes of the following meetings:

- Communications Consumer Panel (December 2015)
- Community Radio Fund Panel (June 2015)

Any other business

13. There was none.

Date of the next meeting

14. The next Board meeting will be held on 15 March 2016.