

**MINUTES OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING OF
THE OFCOM BOARD HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2017**

Present

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

*Nick Pollard stepped out of the meeting during the Chief Executive's report (minute 7) and was not present for an oral update on the possible 21st Century Fox/Sky public interest test.

In attendance

Kevin Bakhurst	Group Director, Content and Media Standards (minutes 8-9)
Philip Marnick	Group Director, Spectrum (minute 10)
Polly Weitzman	General Counsel
Steve Gettings	Corporation Secretary
Jenny Leyland	Assistant Secretary to the Corporation

Other Ofcom Colleagues

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2016 and matters arising – Board Minutes 234(16)

1. The minutes of the Ofcom Board meeting held on 13 December 2016 were **APPROVED** for signature as an accurate record. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Chairman's Report - oral

2. The Chairman provided her report to the Board which included reference to recent meetings/visits.

3. **BBC Chairman:** The Board noted the recent announcement of Sir David Clementi's appointment as BBC Chairman, subject to scrutiny of the proposed appointment by the Committee for Culture, Media and Sport at its meeting on 17 January 2017.

4. **Content Board Membership:** The Board approved the appointment of Kevin Bakhurst, Group Director, Content and Media Policy Group, as an executive member of the Content Board.

<p><u>Report from the Chairman of the Nations Committee – oral</u></p> <p>5. Lynne Brindley reported on matters discussed at the Nations Committee meeting held on 13 December 2016.</p>
<p><u>Reports from other Non-Executive Members – oral</u></p> <p>6. Nick Pollard updated the Board on the recruitment process to find two new non-executive members of the Content Board, and on recent content standards work.</p>
<p><u>Chief Executive’s Report – Board Paper 1(17)</u></p> <p>7. Sharon White presented her report to the Board and provided an oral update on recent events.</p>
<p><u>Beyond Broadcast: Understanding audio-visual content consumption – Board Paper 2(17)</u></p> <p>8. The Board was updated on key findings from Ofcom’s Beyond Broadcast project which looked at changes in audio-visual consumption.</p>
<p><u>BBC Charter Review: Update, with focus on Performance Workstream – Board Paper 3(17)</u></p> <p>9. The Board gave initial consideration to the approach to be taken to regulating the BBC’s performance, including the proposed new Operating Licence. A number of comments were noted.</p>
<p><u>Spectrum Group Strategic Priorities and Programme of Work – Board Paper 4(17)</u></p> <p>10. The Board discussed an update on the Spectrum Group’s priorities and programme of work, focusing in particular on 5G and Wi-Fi.</p>
<p><u>Issues Covered at Policy and Management Board (PMB) – Board Paper 6(17)</u></p> <p>11. The 2015 Board Review recommended that the Board should consider the balance between matters discussed at the main Board and matters discussed at the executive Policy and Management Board (PMB). As part of that exercise the Board was provided with a list of issues that had been discussed/agreed at PMB and not subsequently brought to the Board before being finalised. Following discussion Board Members confirmed they were broadly content with the balance struck. Reference was made to a range of issues being highlighted to the Board via the Chief Executive’s report. There were some PMB papers which the Board would have found it helpful to see for information. The Deputy Chairman would talk to the Chief Executive about how to facilitate that happening in future.</p>
<p><u>Proposals for Board Review 2017 – Board Paper 7(17)</u></p> <p>12. The Board approved the proposed approach to reviewing the effectiveness of the operation of the Board in 2017, as set out in Board Paper 7(17).</p>
<p><u>Ofcom Board Forward Agendas – Board Paper 139(16)</u></p> <p>13. The Board commented on the latest iteration of the Board forward plan.</p>

Information items

14. The following information papers were noted.

- International Broadband Scorecard – Board Paper 5(17)
- 2016/2017 Annual Report and Accounts – Board Paper 9(17)
- Management Information Report – Board Paper 10(17)
- Strategic Risk Register – Board Paper 11(17)

Minutes from other Boards/Panels/Committees

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

- Communications Consumer Panel and ACOD (17 November 2016)
- Nations Committee (27 September 2016)
- Advisory Committee for Wales (26 September 2016).

Any Other Business

16. There was none.

Date of the Next Meeting

17. The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, 22 February 2017.