

Note of the 256th Meeting of the Ofcom Board, held on 2 October 2018

Introduction

Members were welcomed to the 256th meeting of the Ofcom Board. Polly Weitzman (General Counsel), Jacqui Gregory (Corporation Secretary), and Jenny Leyland (Assistant Corporation Secretary) attended throughout. Other Ofcom colleagues attended for part of the meeting.

Declaration of Interests

1. There were no new declarations of interest raised by Members at the meeting.

Chairman's Report

2. Board appointments: The Chairman welcomed Angela Dean to her first Board meeting following her appointment as the Audit and Risk Board Member with effect from 30 September 2018. The Chairman noted that Maggie Carver had been appointed Deputy Chairman with effect from the same date. Due to a prior commitment she had conveyed her apologies for the Ofcom Board meeting, although she would be attending some of the afternoon session of the Board's Strategy Day which was scheduled to take place immediately after the Board meeting. The Chairman also welcomed Jacqui Gregory to her first Board meeting following her appointment as Corporation Secretary.

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2018 and matters arising

3. Subject to a minor drafting change to minute number 10 to clarify that the discussion document examining the area of harmful internet content had been published on the same day as the 18 September 2018 Board meeting, the minutes of the Ofcom Board meeting held on 18 September 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.
4. In respect of matters arising from the 18 September 2018 meeting, it was noted that media coverage of the publication of the research report "Diversity and Equal Opportunities on Television" had included a focus on the under-representation of religious people working in television. It was agreed that a future Board discussion take place in respect of the data in the report on this point.

Chief Executive's Report

5. Sharon White presented her report which covered key developments since the last Board meeting

Report from the Chairman of the Content Board

6. Tim Suter reported on matters discussed at the Content Board meeting held on 25 September 2018. The Content Board had commented on the draft BBC Annual Report and Performance Report. The Content Board had also discussed the content of the six-monthly report to the Ofcom Board, the first of which was due to be presented to the Board in November and which would include the key themes and lessons learned from Ofcom's editorial standards work.

Reports from Non-Executive Members

7. Graham Mather reported on a recent meeting with the Chair of Ofcom's Communications Consumer Panel. Bob Downes reported on the launch event held in Edinburgh for the first annual Media Nations Report.

Quarter 3 Forecast

8. The Board was updated on the Quarter 3 2018 Forecast.

Appointment to the Content Board

9. The Board approved an appointment to the Content Board for a three-year term.

Appointment of the Chairman of MG Alba

10. The Board approved a recommendation for the appointment of the Chairman of MG Alba for a four-year term. The appointment was subject to final approval by the relevant Scottish Ministers.

Any other business

11. There were no items of Any Other Business raised at the meeting.

Date of the next meeting

12. The next Board meeting will be held on 13 November 2018 in Edinburgh.

3 October 2018