

**MINUTES OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF
THE OFCOM BOARD HELD ON 19 APRIL 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

In attendance

Polly Weitzman	General Counsel
Alison Crosland	Group Director, Corporate Services Group (minutes 7-8)
Steve Gettings	Corporation Secretary
Jenny Leyland	Assistant Secretary to the Corporation

Other Ofcom Colleagues

**Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 15 March 2016 – Minutes 225(16) - and
Matters Arising**

1. The minutes of the Ofcom Board meeting held on 15 March 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 which included reference to a number of recent meetings.

3. Channel 4 Board: Ofcom had today announced the appointment of MT Rainey as the Deputy Chairman of Channel 4. M T Rainey was already a non-executive member of the Channel 4 Board and would take on her new role with immediate effect.

Report from the Chairman of the Content Board – oral

4. Bill Emmott reported on matters discussed at the Content Board meeting held on 5 April 2016. The Content Board had considered their forward plan for 2016/2017 and the key themes were highlighted to the Board.

<p><u>Reports from other Non-Executive Board Members – oral</u></p> <p>5. Sheila Noakes reported on her recent attendance at a meeting of the National Advisory Committee for Northern Ireland.</p>
<p><u>Chief Executive’s Report - Board Paper 39(16)</u></p> <p>6. Sharon White presented her report to the Board.</p>
<p><u>Internal Assessment of Ofcom’s Performance 2015/2016 – Board Paper 50(16)</u></p> <p>7. The Board considered an overview of Ofcom’s performance in 2015/2016 against its policy and operational priorities. Comments were noted.</p>
<p><u>2015/2016 Ofcom Annual Report and Accounts – Board Paper 40(16)</u></p> <p>8. The Board reviewed the draft Annual Report and Accounts at Annex A to Board Paper 40(16) and a number of comments were noted.</p>
<p><u>Briefing on the Public Service Broadcasting Framework – Board Paper 41(16)</u></p> <p>9. The Board discussed a paper which provided background on the development of the Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) system, looked at how it is today and considered some potential future challenges to the PSB system. During the course of discussion a number of comments were noted. The Board asked for an opportunity to discuss the issues further and asked for some additional analysis to be provided.</p>
<p><u>BBC Update – Board Paper 42(16)</u></p> <p>10. The Board discussed and noted the update provided in Board Paper 42(16) and orally on continuing discussions with DCMS on the shape of possible new responsibilities for Ofcom in relation to the BBC.</p>
<p><u>Approach to Local Television Regulation – Board Paper 43(16)</u></p> <p>11. The Board discussed and noted the updated provided in Board Paper 43(16) on the local television sector and Ofcom’s regulatory approach.</p>
<p><u>Broadband Universal Service Obligation Update – Board Paper 44(16)</u></p> <p>12. The Board discussed an update on recent developments in the policy and process for introducing a broadband universal service obligation. During the course of discussion a number of comments were noted. The Board noted that Ofcom had issued a call for inputs. The responses would be summarised in a progress report to Government. The Board asked to see that report for information ahead of its submission to Government.</p>
<p><u>Ofcom Board Forward Plan 2016 – Board Paper 45(16)</u></p> <p>13. The Board discussed the Board forward plan and comments were noted.</p>
<p><u>Information Papers</u></p> <p>14. The Board noted the following information papers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Economy Bill Update – Board Paper 46(16) • Responsibility for the Telephone Preference Service – Board Paper 47(16) • Management Information Report – Board Paper 48(16) • Strategic Risk Register – Board Paper 49(16).

Minutes of other Boards/Panels/Committees

15. The Board noted without comment the minutes of the following meetings:
- Ofcom Risk and Audit Committee (15 December 2015)
 - Content Board (23 February 2016)
 - Communications Consumer Panel (25 February 2016).

Any other business

16. Election Committee: The Chairman advised the Board that she had agreed with Bill Emmott (in his capacity as Chairman of the Content Board) that Nick Pollard would chair the Election Committee if it was required to meet to consider matters relating to the forthcoming EU referendum campaign broadcasts.

17. The Board confirmed, for the avoidance of doubt, that the Election Committee's duties under its terms of reference at paragraph 1c "Other matters as directed by the Ofcom Board" included consideration of matters relating to referendum broadcasts in addition to party election broadcasts and any substantive impartiality issues which might require redress before a referendum.

Date of the next meeting

18. The next Board meeting will be held on 24 May 2016.