

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE OFCOM ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ENGLAND HELD AT RIVERSIDE HOUSE ON 12th JUNE 2018

Present

John Varney	Chair
Emma Davison	Member
Alan Nunn	Member
Caroline Roberts-Cherry	Member
Mark Smith	Member

Apologies

Graham Creelman	Member
Monisha Shah	Content Board member for England
Chris Holland	Communications Consumer Panel member for England

In Attendance

Jenny Borritt	Coordinator, Communications Consumer Panel/ACOD
Steve Gettings	Corporation Secretary
Emma McFadyen	Director, England
Rikesh Kanabar	Graduate, Government & Parliamentary Business
Tim Suter	Ofcom Board Member
Other Ofcom Colleagues	

1.	<p><u>Introduction and declarations of interest</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed all present to the sixty-fourth meeting.</p> <p>There were no interests to declare.</p>
2.	<p><u>Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2018 and matters arising</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2018 were approved.</p>
3.	<p><u>Advisory Committees – future model</u></p> <p>The Chair asked members for their opinions on how the committee could be more effective. Members noted that the timing of the meetings does not always allow members to provide advice at the right time; it was important to draw on members’ knowledge and expertise to help Ofcom with its policy making; the Committee noted the challenge of finding the right balance between regional representation and sectoral expertise, and that the Committee did not have a member with experience of the online sector – this gap should be considered in future recruitment.</p>
4.	<p><u>Content Board update</u></p> <p>Members were updated on recent topics of interest to the Ofcom Content Board. This included the current review of how the Content Board operates, acknowledging the pace of</p>

	change in the sector and viewing habits and how it could be most effective.
5.	<p><u>Regulatory Political Update</u></p> <p>Ofcom colleagues joined the meeting and members had received a paper to brief the Committee on recent and current Government and legislative issues. Issues noted included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentary interest around online regulation, including parliamentary committee inquiries into fake news and internet regulation. The Government would publish a white paper on the latter topic in due course. • Ofcom had submitted its advice to the Secretary of State on the Trinity Mirror merger. • Ofcom was engaging with DCMS on what a broadcasting framework might look like in the event of a 'no-deal' Brexit scenario. • Government was considering options on restricting advertising of HFSS products. • A report was due to be published by the National Infrastructure Commission next month, entitled <i>National Infrastructure Assessment 2018</i>.
6.	<p><u>Information security</u></p> <p>Ofcom colleagues updated members on Ofcom's security policy. Members commented that they were sometimes having difficulty accessing emails through their mobile phones when travelling due to the authentication process.</p>
7.	<p><u>BBC: Representation and portrayal and Annual Report on the BBC</u></p> <p>Ofcom colleagues joined the meeting and members had been provided with papers updating them on both projects. On Representation and Portrayal, the project team advised that it was currently gathering findings from research; including "off-screen" research, and was finalising interviews with people that commission content to explore the representation and portrayal requirements in the different stages of the commissioning process. Members encouraged the team to ensure that as broad a range of views as possible were captured when reviewing the research.</p> <p>It was noted that the BBC would publish its own Annual Report in July. The committee discussed what would happen if the narrative in Ofcom's report was very different to the BBC's. The team expected that the data would be similar, although Ofcom's report would not have a full year of BBC data.</p> <p>The reports would be published concurrently.</p>

<p>8.</p>	<p><u>700 MHz clearance update</u></p> <p>Ofcom colleagues joined the meeting and members had been provided with a paper updating them on the project. The Committee discussed timescales for frequency changes, the impact of retuning on viewers and support offered, feedback from previous exercises, the PMSE equipment funding scheme, and noted that Brexit was unlikely to have an impact given that frequencies were determined through the ITU.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>Nations Committee update</u></p> <p>The Chair noted that new Chairs for Scotland and Wales, Liz Leonard and Hywel Wiliam, had joined the Committee.</p> <p>The Chair also provided members with an oral update of the commercial radio localness consultation. Members would consider responding to Ofcom’s consultation.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><u>Communications Consumer Panel update</u></p> <p>Members had been provided with a summary note on the recent activity of the Panel and Jenny Borritt provided additional context. Issues discussed included consumer migrations/packages and Brexit impacts on consumers in relation to CE markings.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>The committee discussed the forward look of publications and business for the committee.</p>