

Note of the 234th Meeting of the Ofcom Board, held on 13 December 2016

Introduction

Members were welcomed to the 234th meeting of the Ofcom Board. Polly Weitzman (General Counsel), Steve Gettings (Corporation Secretary), and Jenny Leyland (Assistant Corporation Secretary) attended throughout. Kevin Bakhurst, Group Director, Content and Media Standards, Philip Marnick, Group Director, Spectrum and other Ofcom colleagues attended for part of the meeting.

Introduction

1. The Chairman reflected on the achievements of the past year and asked the executive to communicate to colleagues the Board's appreciation of their work.

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2016 and matters arising

2. The minutes of the Ofcom Board meeting held on 15 November 2016 were approved for signature as a correct record. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Chairman's Report

3. The Chairman provided her report to the Board.

Report from the Chairman of the Content Board

4. Nick Pollard reported on matters discussed at the Content Board meeting held on 6 December 2016.

Report from the Chairman of the Risk and Audit Committee

5. Sheila Noakes reported on matters discussed at the Risk and Audit Committee meeting on 12 December 2016.

Reports from Non-Executive Members

6. Graham Mather reported on a visit to BT attended with colleagues to look at BT's new anti-nuisance call systems.

Chief Executive's Report

7. Sharon White presented her report to the Board and provided an oral update on recent events.

Wholesale Local Access Market Review Update

8. The paper set out the proposed approach to BT's wholesale access products for superfast broadband (virtual unbundled local access (VULA)) and for its new higher speed broadband products using G.fast technology and fibre-to-the premises (FTTP). During discussion the Board was supportive of the proposed approach, as set out in the paper. A full set of consultation proposals for the wholesale local access (WLA) market review will be put to the Board in February with a view to publication in March 2017.

Spectrum Update

9. The Board was provided with an oral update which included an overview of Ofcom's preparations for the 2.3/3.4GHz auction; recent developments concerning 5G; and current activities being undertaken by the Spectrum Engineering Team.

Connected Nations Presentation

10. The Connected Nations Report would be published shortly. The data behind the report meant that for the first time it was possible to look in detail at the broadband services available to every home and small business in the country. Having previously presented the key messages from this year's report to the Board, the team attended this meeting to demonstrate new ways in which this data was being made available to stakeholders via the website.

Mid-year Review of Delivery Against the Annual Plan

11. The Board discussed and commented on a paper which set out performance at the mid-year point against the priorities set out in the 2016/17 annual plan, including where conscious decisions had been taken to refocus resource in light of new priorities.

Ofcom Board Forward Agendas

12. The Board reviewed business proposed for consideration at future Board meetings.

Ofcom Risk Appetite Statement

13. Each year Ofcom's risk appetite statements are reviewed to ensure that they remain appropriate for the organisation. The Board approved the risk appetite statements.

Information papers

14. The Board noted information papers on the following topics:

- 14.1 Overview of the News Market
- 14.2 Digital Economy Bill Update
- 14.3 Diversity Report to the Ofcom Board
- 14.4 Board Broadcast Licensing Update
- 14.5 Applying Ofcom's Rules on Impartiality
- 14.6 Management Information Report
- 14.7 Strategic Risk Register

Minutes

15. The following minutes were noted without discussion:

- 15.1 Advisory Committee for England (7 September 2016)
- 15.2 Advisory Committee for Scotland (8 September 2016)
- 15.3 Advisory Committee for Northern Ireland (15 September 2016)
- 15.4 Communications Consumer Panel/ACOD (20 October 2016)

Any other business

16. There was none.

Date of the next meeting

17. The next Board meeting will be held on 17 January 2017.

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