



Note of the 304th Meeting of the Ofcom Board, held on 17 May 2023

Members were welcomed to the 304th meeting of the Ofcom Board. Martin Ballantyne (General Counsel), Veronica Branton (Corporation Secretary), Francesca Carter (Head of Governance) and Jamie Mordue (Governance Manager) attended throughout.

Declaration of members' interests

1. No new declarations of interest were raised by members at the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2023 and matters arising

2. Subject to a minor amendment, the minutes of the Ofcom Board meeting held on 19 April 2023 were approved for signature as an accurate record.
3. A summary of progress against action points was noted.

Chair's report

4. The Chair updated the Board on his activities, including his attendance in the House of Lords for the Online Safety Bill committee stage. He had held meetings with the Executive Chairman of the TalkTalk Group, the Chair of Royal Mail, the Chair of BT Group, the Chief Executive of Scottish Television, Chief Executive of ITV and the Chair of Openreach. The Chair had recently spoken at the Economic Regulation Forum.
5. The Board noted the Chair's report.

Chief Executive's report

6. Melanie Dawes presented her report covering her activities and key developments since the last Board meeting.
7. The Board discussed the implications of Generative AI.
8. The Board noted that the Welsh Language Commissioner had found against Ofcom in its social media and podcast use.
9. Lindsey Fussell updated the Board on the position in relation to Royal Mail.
10. The Board discussed and noted the report.

Ofcom Agility Programme

11. The Board discussed a paper on Ofcom's Agility Programme, including expected timeframes, how the programme would be delivered and the importance of behavioural changes being made by all colleagues, rather than a top-down approach.
12. The Board noted that colleagues were enthusiastic about the agility programme and how it could improve how Ofcom operated.
13. The Board noted the paper.

Full-year review of delivery against the Plan of Work

14. The Board discussed a paper on delivery against the plan of work in the first year of the three-year plan.
15. The Board noted that 97 per cent of priority projects were delivered on time or with minor delays. The Board discussed how delivery and resources were reviewed within the year, which confirmed the importance of the agility programme and developing resilience through business planning.
16. The Board also discussed spend in the financial year by priority outcome and noted the investment in preparations for Online Safety.
17. The Board noted the paper.

Three-year plan cross-cutting priority areas

18. The Board discussed a paper on cross-cutting priority areas in the three-year plan.
19. The Board discussed the four cross-cutting areas that had been identified: Digital Markets, Internet Resilience, the Future of TV Distribution, and Digital Consumers.
20. The Board discussed the ongoing need for horizon scanning and the need to identify areas in the future where Ofcom may have a role to play.
21. The Board noted the paper.

Appointment of new member to the Content Board

22. The Board approved the appointment of Simon Bucks to the Content Board for a three-year term, commencing 1 July 2023.

Information items

23. The Board noted the following information items:
 - Non-executive member updates – Board paper 54(23).

- Performance update – Board paper 55(23)
- Ofcom’s whistleblowing and grievance policies – Board paper 56(23)
- Board work programme and publications schedule – Board papers 57(23) and 58(23)
- Minutes of the Advisory Committee for Scotland (22 February 2023), the Advisory Committee for Wales (23 February 2023), the Advisory Committee for England (2 March 2023), the Advisory Committee for Northern Ireland (7 March 2023), the Communications Consumer Panel (23 March 2032) and the Content Board (4 April 2023).

Items in the Board reading room

24. The Board noted that the grievance policy was uploaded to the reading room.

Any other business

25. The Board was updated on progress with the appointment of the Group Director, Broadcasting Group

Date of the next meeting

26. The next Board meeting would be held on 21 June 2023.

5 June 2023