



Meeting of the BBC Board

MINUTES

3 June 2019

The Boardroom, Room 3028, Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Apologies and Conflicts of Interest
2. Age-related TV Licence Concession
3. AOB

ATTENDANCE

Present

- David Clementi Chairman
- Tony Hall Director-General
- Simon Burke Non-executive director (by phone)
- Tim Davie Chief Executive Officer, BBC Studios
- Tanni Grey-Thompson Non-executive Director (by phone)
- Ken MacQuarrie Director, Nations and Regions (by phone)
- Ian Hargreaves Non-executive director (by phone)
- Tom Ilube Non-executive director
- Steve Morrison Non-executive director
- Nicholas Serota Non-executive director
- Elan Closs Stephens Non-executive director (by phone)
- Ashley Steel Non-executive director (by phone)

Apologies: None

With

- Phil Harrold Company Secretary
- Jo Clarke Secretariat Manager
- Gautam Rangarajan Director, Strategy
- Glyn Isherwood Director, Group Finance and Operations
- Bob Shennan BBC Managing Director
- Clare Sumner Director, Policy
- Kerris Bright Chief Customer Officer
- John Shield Director, Communications

BOARD MINUTES – 3 JUNE 2019

1. Apologies and Conflicts of Interest

- 1.1 There were no apologies for this meeting.

2 Age-related TV Licence Fee Concession

- 2.1 At the May Board it was agreed that a further meeting should be scheduled on the age-related TV licence concession. The Board was provided with a draft updated Equality Impact Assessment, work describing a range of policy options and the four reports analysing public and stakeholder consultation responses.
- 2.2 The Board discussed the policy options again and their preferred policy option. The Board tested the reasons for their preferred option taking in to account the same criteria of fairness, financial impact and feasibility that the Board had previously set out in the BBC's consultation. The Board discussed and identified their collective reasons for their decision, using draft text produced for the Board to facilitate this purpose, so that a reasoned decision document could subsequently be produced to reflect the Board's reasons.
- 2.3 The Board decided unanimously that the fairest decision was to establish a new scheme to focus on the poorest older pensioners and that any household with someone aged over 75 who received pension credit would be eligible for a free TV licence funded by the BBC. The Board believed this was the right policy to implement across the UK from June 2020. All Board members considered that this approach was the fairest option to help the poorest pensioners as it protected those most in need. It was also the fairest option for all licence fee payers as this decision would avoid severe cuts to BBC programmes and services up to 2021/22. The Board considered that the financial impact of continuing with the existing concession would have resulted in £500 million of cuts which would have included BBC Two, BBC Four, Radio 5 Live, BBC News Channel, BBC Scotland Channel and some local radio stations. The Board were not prepared to make those cuts.
- 2.4 The Board identified their collective reasoning and agreed that a decision document setting out their reasoning, an updated equality impact assessment and the four reports on the consultation process should be published shortly for final sign off by the Chairman.
- 2.5 The Board noted that following their decision they would then consider a draft determination document which would give effect to their decision.

3 AOB

3.1 There was no other business.