



Overview of Board Nominations Committee review

The BBC Board's Nominations Committee was asked to look into the personal and financial interests of BBC Chairman Richard Sharp since his appointment to the role. The review was undertaken by the three non-executive members of the Committee, sitting without the Chairman present.

The Committee agreed to: *consider and review the Chairman's adherence to his BBC obligations in respect of conflicts of interest since his appointment as BBC Chairman*. This work was entirely separate to the review by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, which specifically looked at the appointment process itself. The Nominations Committee review only considered matters subsequent to the Chairman's appointment in February 2021.

The members of the Committee for the purposes of the review were Sir Nick Serota (Chair), Shirley Garrod and Dame Elan Closs Stephens. The Committee met four times as part of its work, between 15 February and 5 May 2023. In these meetings the Committee agreed the scope and timetable for their work; the topic areas to be considered and discussed; and the specific issues and questions to be raised with the Chairman. The Committee held a session to discuss these matters with the Chairman on 20 March 2023 and conducted a number of follow up enquiries as a result of this. Draft conclusions for the work were discussed at the meeting on 27 March 2023, were approved on 5 May 2023 and were noted by the BBC Board.

At the conclusion of the process, the Committee noted the findings of the review by Adam Heppinstall KC, for the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA), published on 28 April. At the 5 May meeting, it was agreed that these findings provided no new evidence to be considered although the Committee agreed to adopt the OCPA's findings on potential perceived conflicts of interest. As such, the Committee agreed their conclusions from 27 March and also agreed that they would immediately publish the minutes of their meetings on the BBC's website.

Based on the evidence they had reviewed, the Committee were content to confirm that they had no concerns in respect of the Chairman's integrity whilst in the role albeit that, as covered in the findings of 27 March, the relevant declarations should have been made at the outset of his tenure, to avoid any potential perceived conflicts of interest. This was not in line with clause 2.4 of the Board's Code of Practice. However, the Committee were also content, based on the evidence, that all other aspects of the Code had been followed satisfactorily by the Chairman during his time in the role.

It made the following recommendations in respect of future practice, which were approved by the BBC Board on 10 May 2023:

- there should be greater attention paid to the disclosure of relevant personal and professional interests at the start of meetings of the Board and its Committees, with an expectation that there would be a high level of disclosure by Board members;
- the Board's Code of Practice and Guidance should be assessed to make sure they were clear enough that personal and political as well as professional or pecuniary relationships should be considered for disclosure, including on appointment to roles, and including where the perception of potential as well as actual conflicts might arise; and
- there should be a clearer process by which meetings between Board members and senior political figures – including social events – were diarised and notified to the BBC and to officials and subsequently minuted.