



## **Meeting of the BBC Editorial Guidelines and Standards Committee**

### **MINUTES**

1 October 2024  
Boardroom 3028, Broadcasting House, London

#### **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

1. Minutes of the 2 July Meeting and Matters Arising
2. The Role and Effectiveness of EGSC
3. Revision of the Editorial Guidelines: Public Consultation
4. Senior Editorial Policy Adviser's Report
5. Emerging Editorial Risks and Issues
6. Complaints Reporting
7. Papers for Approval/Noting
8. AOB

## ATTENDANCE

### *Members:*

• Samir Shah	Chair
• Nicholas Serota	Non-executive director
• Tim Davie	Director-General
• Robbie Gibb	Non-executive director
• Deborah Turness	CEO, BBC News and Current Affairs

### *With*

Rhodri Talfan Davies	Director, Nations
Caroline Daniel	Editorial Advisor
Michael Prescott	Editorial Advisor
David Jordan	Director, Editorial Standards and Policy
Peter Johnston	Director, Complaints and Editorial Reviews
Phil Harrold	Company Secretary
Jo Clarke	Secretary to the Committee
Rizwana Rahmani	Executive Lead, Editorial Policy and Standards
David Grossman	Senior Editorial Policy Advisor
Helen White	Project Manager; Serota Implementation Project
Simon Coates	Senior Advisor, Thematic Reviews

## APOLOGIES

None

## **EDITORIAL GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **1. Minutes from the 2 July Meeting and Matters Arising**

1.1 The minutes of the meeting on the 2 July were approved.

#### *Matters Arising*

1.2 The Matters Arising paper was noted.

### **2. The Role and Effectiveness of the Committee**

#### *The Role of the External Editorial Advisers*

2.1 The Committee noted a paper setting out the new role descriptions for the external editorial advisers, as requested at its meeting in July, which had been approved at the September meetings of the Nominations Committee and the Board.

### **3 Revision of the Editorial Guidelines: Public Consultation**

3.1 The Committee discussed the revision of the BBC's Editorial Guidelines and the plans for the public consultation. The Chair had requested further discussion of some of the issues that might arise during the consultation process.

3.2 The Committee had a wide-ranging discussion on the context and background to the BBC's current approach to the use of the word "terrorist" and related language. The Committee also discussed other high-profile issues which might cause comment during the consultation.

3.3 The Committee agreed that the revised Editorial Guidelines and consultation document should be submitted to the Board for approval.

### **4. Senior Advisor Editorial Policy Report**

4.1 The Committee discussed the Senior Editorial Policy Advisor's report.

## **5. Emerging Editorial Risks and Issues**

5.1 The Committee discussed current and upcoming editorial risks. These included: coverage of the run-up to the US Election, with particular regard to the coverage of the Trump campaign; coverage of the wars in the Middle East and Ukraine; the gender identity, abortion and assisted dying debates. The Committee also discussed the new make-up of the UK Parliament following the election and the implications this had for coverage.

### *Serious Editorial Breaches*

5.2 The Committee noted three serious editorial breaches, which had been escalated from the Editorial Standards and Complaints Committee, and discussed the resulting actions by management.

## **6 Complaints Reporting**

### *Analysis of Editorial Complaints Stage 2*

6.1 The Committee considered the Stage 2 complaints report, noting that the Asserson Report was being handled as a complaint a Stage 1b and a response would be issued shortly.

6.2 The Committee noted that a proposed change to the Complaints Framework would be referred to Ofcom for their view before coming back to EGSC for approval.

## **7 Papers for Approval/Noting by Exception**

7.1 The Committee noted a paper which provided updates on the work of the thematic reviews and their implementation.

7.2 The Committee noted the stage 1 complaints reporting for July, August and September.

7.3 The Committee noted the Ofcom monthly complaints reports.

7.4 The Committee noted that following the Internal Audit of the Implementation of the Serota Review, all of the recommendations had now been closed. This paper provided EGSC with the new Impartiality plan project tracking report which was agreed at the meeting on 14 May 2024.

**8. AOB**

- 8.1 The Committee noted that a briefing on the priorities for the World Service by the new Global Director, Jonathan Munro, was planned for the October meeting of the Board.
- 8.2 A session on BBC Verify would come to a future meeting of the Committee.