



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

### **SUMMARY MINUTES**

11 June 2025

Boardroom 3028, Broadcasting House, London

#### **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

1. Minutes of the 12 May Meeting and Matters Arising
2. Thematic Review of Portrayal and Representation
3. Thematic Review of Coverage of the Middle East Conflict: Terms of Reference
4. Senior Editorial Adviser Report
5. Editorial Risks and Issues
6. Analysis of Stage 2 Complaints
7. Papers for Noting
8. AOB

## ATTENDANCE

### *Members:*

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

### *With*

Caroline Thomson	Non-executive Director (observer) (item 3 onward)
George Achi	Head of Journalism (for Jonathan Munro)
Caroline Daniel	External Editorial Advisor
Michael Prescott	External Editorial Advisor
David Jordan	Director, Editorial Standards and Policy
Peter Johnston	Director, Complaints and Editorial Reviews
Paul Oldfield	Chief of Staff to the Chair and Director-General
Jo Clarke	Secretary to the Committee
David Grossman	Senior Editorial Policy Advisor
Rizwana Rahmani	Executive Lead, Editorial Policy and Standards
Anne Morrison	Co-Chair Thematic Review of Portrayal and Representation (item 2)
Chris Banatvala	Co-Chair Thematic Review of Portrayal and Representation (item 2)
Rhodri Talfan Davies	Director, Nations (item 2)
Simon Coates	Senior Editorial Policy Advisor (items 2 and 3)
Richard Burgess	Director, News (item 4)
Dominic Ball	Executive News Editor (item 4)

## APOLOGIES

None

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

### **1. Apologies and Conflicts of Interest**

- 1.1 There were no apologies for the meeting.
- 1.2 No conflicts of interest were declared in addition to those already recorded.

### **1. Minutes from the 12 May Meeting and Matters Arising**

- 1.1 The minutes of the meeting on the 12 May were approved.

#### *Matters Arising*

- 1.2 The Matters Arising paper was noted.

#### *Roll-out of the Editorial Guidelines*

- 1.3 The Committee noted a paper setting out the roll out plan for the 2025 BBC Editorial Guidelines.

### **2. Thematic Review of Portrayal and Representation**

- 2.1 The Committee welcomed Anne Morrison and Chris Banatvala, co-chairs of the Thematic Review of Portrayal and Representation for an initial discussion of the resulting draft report.
- 2.2 The Committee discussed the report in full and agreed that it, and the accompanying audience research, contained valuable data and insights.
- 2.2 The report would be further refined and submitted to the Board for review.

### **3 Thematic Review of Coverage of the Middle East Conflict: Terms of Reference**

- 3.1 The Committee held a further discussion on the requirements for leadership of the independent review of BBC coverage of the Middle East.

#### **4. Senior Editorial Adviser Report**

- 4.1 The Committee discussed the Senior Editorial Adviser's Report, which this month contained the findings of an internal review on business coverage. The Committee was joined by Richard Burgess and Dominic Ball for discussion of the report.
- 4.2 The Committee also discussed responses to a number editorial questions raised offline since the last the meeting of the Committee.

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

- 5.1 An update was provided on emerging editorial risks and issues: these included coverage of ongoing conflicts, the assisted dying debate and the current political environment.

##### *Serious Editorial Breach: BBC East of England*

- 5.2 The Committee discussed a paper about a serious editorial breach on a shared radio programme on local radio in the East of England.
- 5.3 Directors discussed the consequence management of those involved in serious breaches of the Editorial Guidelines.

#### **6. Stage 2 Complaints Analysis**

- 6.1 The Committee considered the Stage 2 complaints report.

#### **7. Papers for Noting**

- 7.1 The Committee noted the Stage 1 complaints reports since February.
- 7.2 The Committee noted the Ofcom reporting since February.
- 7.3 The Committee noted an update on progress with recommendations arising from the Serota Review and 10 point impartiality plan.

#### **8. AOB**

- 8.1 The Chair thanked the two external editorial advisers, Caroline Daniel and Michael Prescott for their contribution on the occasion of their final meeting.

- 8.2 The Committee noted that Chris Saul would be conducting a high-level effectiveness review of the Committee over the summer.