



Meeting of the BBC Editorial Guidelines and Standards Committee

MINUTES

13 November 2025

Boardroom 3028, Broadcasting House, London

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Minutes of the 23 September Meeting and Matters Arising
2. Thematic Review of Portrayal and Representation
3. Thematic Review of the Middle East: Update
4. Editorial Risks and Issues
5. BBC Arabic: Executive Update
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
- Caroline Thomson Non-executive director

With:

Rhodri Talfan Davies	Director, Editorial
Jonathan Munro	Interim CEO News and Current Affairs
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
Rizwana Rahmani	Executive Lead, Editorial Policy and Standards
Simon Coates	Senior Editorial Policy Advisor (items 2 and 3)
Kate Phillips	Chief Content Officer (item 2)
Rhuanedd Richards	Director, Nations (item 2)
George Achi	Director, Journalism, Global News (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 23 September Meeting and Matters Arising

- 1.1 The minutes of the meeting on the 23 September were approved.

Matters Arising

- 1.2 The Matters Arising paper was noted.

Editorial Review

- 1.3 The Board had requested that a piece of work should be conducted to assess the performance, structure, focus and governance of the Committee. The work would build on previous analyses and would be led by Caroline Thomson and Peter Johnston.
- 1.4 A second piece of work was also requested which would comprise of a detailed assessment of the matters raised in Michael Prescott's letter to the Board which was to be carried out by Peter Johnston. This would build on the initial analysis presented to the Board in October.
- 1.5 The Committee approved the terms of reference for the work, which would be completed for consideration by the full Board in December.

2. Thematic Review of Portrayal and Representation

- 2.1 The Committee discussed the final draft of the Thematic Review of Portrayal and Representation and the Executive Action Plan, which had been drafted in response to its recommendations.
- 2.2 The Committee commended the review, which had gone further in its examination of representation on the BBC than any done previously. Committee members requested further clarification on the measurement and monitoring systems which would be used in its implementation and stressed the importance of their practicality. Directors also

agreed that the communications around the implementation of the recommendations would benefit from a simplicity of approach, and the prioritisation of the key messages.

- 2.3 The Committee approved the Thematic Review of Portrayal and Representation and the Executive Action Plan for submission to the Board on 20 November.

3 Thematic Review of Coverage of the Middle East Conflict: Update

- 3.1 The Committee noted an update on the recruitment of the leadership for the review of BBC coverage of the Middle East.

4. Emerging Editorial Risks and Issues

- 4.1 The Committee discussed a range of emerging editorial risks and issues. These included the changing balance of political parties in the UK and the marked differences in political support between different geographical areas, and the increase in populist messaging. These would all have an impact on the local elections next year. The Committee noted that the *Your Vote, Your Voice* programme would be extended as part of the coverage.
- 4.2 The Committee also noted updates on Eurovision and the Reith Lectures.

5 BBC Arabic: Executive Update

- 5.1 The Committee welcomed George Achi who updated the Committee on the changes he had made to BBC Arabic since taking up the post of Head of Journalism for the World Service.
- 5.2 The Committee noted that the structural and management changes that had been made to the oversight of World Service operations, including BBC Arabic, had now been fully implemented.

6. Stage 2 Complaints Analysis

- 6.1 The Committee considered the Stage 2 complaints report.
- 6.2 The Committee noted an update on the Ofcom adjudication regarding *Gaza: How to Survive a War Zone*. A broadcast direction had been issued.

7. Papers for Noting

7.1 The Committee noted the Editorial Whistle-blowing Report.

7.2 The Committee noted the Internal Audit Report on Charity programmes.

7.3 The Committee noted the Stage One Complaints and Ofcom reporting.

8. AOB

8.1 There was no other business.