



Meeting of the BBC Editorial Guidelines and Standards Committee

MINUTES

23 September 2025
Boardroom 3028, Broadcasting House, London

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Minutes of the 11 June Meeting and Matters Arising
2. Thematic Review of Representation and Portrayal
3. Thematic Review of Coverage of the Middle East Conflict: Terms of Reference
4. The BBC and the Use of Generative AI: Editorial Update
5. Senior Editorial Adviser Report
6. Editorial Risks and Issues
7. Analysis of Stage 2 Complaints
8. Papers for Noting
9. AOB

ATTENDANCE

Members:

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

With:

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| Jonathan Munro | Director Global, Deputy 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 |
| David Grossman | Senior Editorial Policy Advisor |
| Rizwana Rahmani | Executive Lead, Editorial Policy and Standards |
| Simon Coates | Senior Editorial Policy Advisor (items 2 and 3) |
| Rhodri Talfan Davies | Director, Nations (item 4) |
| Rachel Jupp | Editorial Executive, Generative AI (item 4) |
| Matthew Eltringham | Senior Editorial Policy Advisor (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 11 June Meeting and Matters Arising

- 1.1 The minutes of the meeting on the 11 June were approved.

Matters Arising

- 1.2 The Matters Arising paper was noted.

2. Thematic Review of Representation and Portrayal

- 2.1 The Committee noted an update on the Thematic Review of Representation and Portrayal. Anne Morrison and Chris Banatvala had presented the draft review to the Board at its June meeting for discussion and feedback.
- 2.2 The Committee would discuss the final draft of the review and the executive response at its November meeting.

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

- 3.1 The Committee noted an update on the recruitment of the leadership for the review of BBC coverage of the Middle East.
- 3.2 The Committee agreed that the terms of reference for the next thematic review on climate change and energy policy should be prepared in the meantime.

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 local online content. The Committee

discussed the key themes of the report, which had also been shared and discussed with the Director, Nations and her team. Directors agreed that the report should also be shared with the Nations Committees.

- 4.2 The Committee also discussed responses to a number editorial questions raised offline since the last the meeting of the Committee.

5. The BBC and the Use of Generative AI: Editorial Update

- 5.1 The Committee discussed a paper on the current approach to the use of generative AI at the BBC.
- 5.2 The Committee noted that AI was now explicitly referenced in the updated Editorial Guidelines, highlighting the risks it represented to accuracy, to due impartiality and in relation to harm and offence

6. Emerging Editorial Risks and Issues

- 6.1 An update was provided on emerging editorial risks and issues: these included the changed balance of political parties in Westminster and the local elections in 2026.

Serious Editorial Breach: Gaza – How to Survive a War Zone

- 6.2 The Committee noted a paper recording the detail of the serious editorial breach which was contained in the film and the subsequent follow-up actions.

7. Stage 2 Complaints Analysis

- 7.1 The Committee considered the Stage 2 complaints report.

8. Papers for Noting

- 7.1 The Committee noted the Stage 1 complaints reports.
- 7.2 The Committee noted the Ofcom reporting.

9. AOB

- 9.1 There was no other business.

