



Meeting of the BBC Fair Trading Committee

MINUTES

Tuesday 30 January, 2024
Virtual Meeting

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Committee business
 - a) Apologies and conflicts of interest
 - b) Minutes of 4 October Fair Trading Committee
2. Ofcom Session
3. Quarterly Management Report
4. AOB

ATTENDANCE

Members:

- Muriel Gray Chair
- Chris Jones Non-executive Director
- Leigh Tavaziva Group Chief Operating Officer

With

- Siobhan Walsh Director, Broadcasting Content Policy Ofcom (item 2)
- Ali-Abbas Ali Director, Broadcasting Competition Ofcom (item 2)
- Cristina Nicoletti Squires Group Director of Broadcasting and Media (item 2)
- Chris Rowsell Controller, Regulation
- Peter Ranyard Deputy General Counsel
- Chris Sandford Head of Governance
- Jo Clarke Secretary to the Committee

FAIR TRADING COMMITTEE MINUTES – 30 January 2024

1. Committee business

a) Apologies and conflicts of interest

1.1 There were no new conflicts of interest.

b) Minute of 4 October Fair Trading Committee meeting

1.2 The minutes were approved.

2. Ofcom Session

2.1 The Committee welcomed Siobhan Walsh, Director, Broadcasting Content Policy and Ali Abbas-Ali, Director, Broadcast Competition from Ofcom to discuss the regulatory relationship as part of its regular engagement programme. The Committee also welcomed the new Group Director of Broadcasting and Media, Cristina Nicoletti Squires to her first meeting of the BBC's Fair Trading Committee.

2.2 The group discussed the outcomes and implementation of the BBC Studios Review and ongoing work to simplify the SLA process. It was clear that Ofcom believed its relationship with the BBC was working well, with a high degree of openness and positive engagement.

3. Quarterly Management Report

3.1 The Committee considered the quarterly management report. The Committee noted that as agreed at the October meeting it now incorporated the risk and assurance reporting previously provided separately by the Quality, Assurance and Risk team in order to avoid duplication.

3.2 The Committee discussed the reporting on mandatory training. The Committee agreed that those who were outstanding would receive an email from the Chief Operating Officer.

3.3 The Committee discussed the update on progress with SLA's. Internal Audit had completed its review of the completeness and accuracy of the 2023/2024 SLAs. They found all actions arising from the previous year's SLA review had been implemented, however noted there were delays in the signing of some SLAs and 2 of the 8 recommendations in Ofcom's June 2022 report remained outstanding. The Controller, Regulation, would ensure that outstanding matters would be addressed in the coming financial year.

- 3.4 The Committee noted the new digital news content charging methodology. Members discussed what mechanism would be put in place to ensure delivery of public service content was aligned with the needs of bbc.com.
- 3.5 The Committee noted the next steps with regard to re-assessing the commercial rate of return for the use of studios at Pacific Quay since Studioworks had recently opened additional studio capacity at Kelvin Hall. New rates would be based on this analysis which would apply to all new contracts from 1 April 2024. A similar review of rates for excess studios capacity at BBC PS locations in Wales, Bristol and London during 2024/25.

4. AOB

- 4.1 The Committee noted that the annual contestability review would go to the March meeting of the Board.