



Meeting of the BBC Wales Committee

Merthyr Tydfil College

MINUTES

13th March 2025

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Introduction, minutes of previous Wales Committee
2. Director, BBC Wales Report
3. Market Report
4. Nations Director's Report
5. Sports Deep Dive
6. Audiences
7. Finance
8. AOB and close

ATTENDANCE

Members:

- Michael Plaut, Non-executive Director (Member for Wales) (Chair)
- Michael Smyth, Non-executive Director
- Rhodri Talfan Davies, Director, Nations
- Rhuanedd Richards, Director, BBC Wales
- Rhys Evans, Head of Corporate Affairs and Public Policy, BBC Wales

With:

- Mark Grinnell, Executive Lead (*secretary*)
- Carolyn Hit, Senior Head of Content Production, Wales (*for items 5,6,7 and 8*)
- Nick Andrews, Senior Head of Content Commissioning, Wales (*for items 5,6,7 and 8*)
- Nia Morgan, Senior Finance Business Partner (*for items 5,6,7 and 8*)
- Rebecca Davis, Audiences (*for items 6, 7 and 8*)

Apologies:

- Kate Phillips, Commissioning Director, Unscripted

BBC WALES COMMITTEE MINUTES

13th March 2025

1. Introduction, minutes of previous Wales Committee

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the Committee and thanked Merthyr College for hosting the meeting.
- 1.2 The Chair gave an account of stakeholder engagement undertaken since the previous committee, including visits to the National Orchestra of Wales; attending a Reith Lecture; the Audit and Risk Committee and meeting key staff members in Wales and at BBC Millbank Studios in Westminster.
- 1.3 The minutes from the September Committee were approved with no conflicts.

2. Director, Wales report

- 2.1 The Director offered thanks to the staff and students at Merthyr College, the venue for the Wales Committee. There would be meetings with the students and stakeholders from the local community after the meeting.
- 2.2 The BBC Wales Merthyr Season will launch in the summer. There will be special programmes on all outputs including a concert, comedy and archive seasons, documentaries and a special education pack for primary school children. In addition, Radio 4's Any Questions will come from the town.
- 2.3 BBC Wales hosted a meeting of the BBC's senior leadership team in Cardiff in January.
- 2.4 BBC Wales held a meeting in the Wales Millennium Centre which was attended by 250 people including the First Minister. The session was to hear views from stakeholders relating to Charter Renewal.
- 2.5 BBC Sport, Nations and Content divisions have worked together to secure broadcast and online rights for men's international football matches for the next 18 months. Games will be broadcast live, in English on the BBC and in Welsh on S4C.

- 2.7 The Committee heard it's been a strong period for the *Newyddion* S4C team and their foreign reporting remit. They deployed a team to Israel to mark the first anniversary of the 7th of October attack and the subsequent Israel-Gaza war. The *Newyddion* team also covered the US Presidential Election live from Washington DC and from Pennsylvania. Shortly afterwards, members of the *Newyddion* team were also deployed to California to cover the wildfires ravaging Los Angeles.
- 2.8 The Committee heard BBC Wales savings plans have been announced to staff and will be delivered via voluntary redundancies in all bar one instance.
- 2.9 The Wales leadership team have taken part in the BBC Board Culture Review.
- 2.10 The 25/26 BBC Wales priorities have been shared with staff.
- 2.11 The BBC Wales *Make a Difference Awards* are launching, to celebrate positive stories from Welsh communities.

3. Market Report

- 3.1 The Committee noted the market report paper.

4. Nations Director's Report

- 4.1 The Director noted the strength of the relationships within the BBC in order to fund the most recent sport deals.
- 4.2 The BBC is planning to announce a plan to exceed the minimum OFCOM criteria for portrayal, production and talent spend to avoid reliance on substantive base alone. This would be discussed at the BBC Board.
- 4.3 The carriage of radio on the FM network would be a matter discussed in future Committees.
- 4.4 The Committee discussed the plans for future stakeholder engagement in the bid for the BBC's Royal Charter renewal.
- 4.5 The Committee discussed third party funding for scripted content in the context of the current financial climate.

5. Sports

- 5.1 The Committee heard an overview of sport spend, production, editorial scrutiny and commissioning in Wales since the reorganisation of the Sport department which was discussed in the previous committee.
- 5.2 The Chair congratulated the Sport team for their work on the changes and invited the Sport team to present their work to a future the BBC Board.

6. Audiences

- 6.1 The Committee reviewed the latest audience consumption figures relating to Wales.
- 6.2 Key titles in the previous quarter include *Gavin and Stacey A Fond Farewell*. Other high performing recent programmes include the drama series *The One That Got Away* and an undercover investigation into the Far Right which performed well online.
- 6.3 Radio listening figures for Radio Wales and Radio Cymru are positive in the latest RAJAR audience survey list.

7. Finance

- 7.1 The Chair congratulated the Finance team on the work on savings plans Committee noted the latest finance report and forecast relating to BBC Wales.

8. AOB

- 8.1 The Chair thanked the Committee members and everyone who had contributed to the meeting.
- 8.2 The next meeting would be held in Cardiff on the 3rd July 2025.
- 8.4 The Chief Executive and Chair of S4C would be invited to a future meeting with Committee members.
- 8.3 There were no other matters arising.

Meeting Closed.