



Meeting of the BBC Wales Committee

BBC Central Square Cardiff

MINUTES

3rd July 2025

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Introduction, minutes of previous Wales Committee
2. Wales Director, report
3. Market Report
4. Nations Director, report
5. Politics in Wales
6. Audiences
7. Finance
8. AOB and close

ATTENDANCE

Members:

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

With:

- Michael Jochnowitz, Commissioning Editor, Factual
- Mark Grinnell, Executive Lead (secretary)
- Delyth Isaac, News Controller, Wales (*item 5*)
- Gareth Lewis, Politics Editor, Wales (*item 5*)
- Ric Bailey, Chief Advisor Politics and Editorial Standards (*item 5*)
- Rebecca Davis, Audiences (*item 6*)
- Nia Morgan, Senior Finance Business Partner (*item 7*)

Apologies:

- Garmon Rhys, Director, Wales

BBC WALES COMMITTEE MINUTES

13th March 2025

1. Introduction, minutes of previous Wales Committee

- 1.1 The Chair offered congratulations to the Director of Wales and the Director of Nations on their new appointments.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed the Commissioning Editor, Factual to the meeting as a regular attendee from the Content division.
- 1.3 The Head of Corporate Affairs gave an overview of a meeting which had been held at the Senedd attended by journalists and editorial leaders from News in network and Wales. This coincided with a special day of coverage held on May 6th, twelve months before the Senedd election.
- 1.4 The Chair gave an account of meetings and stakeholder engagement undertaken since the previous committee, including attending the Senedd Culture Committee, and meeting with S4C, Boom Radio, and a meeting at the House of Lords.
- 1.5 The minutes from the previous Committee were approved with no conflicts.

2. Director, Wales report

- 2.1 The Director thanked the Committee for their support in her time as Wales Director and in her new role as Director Nations.
- 2.2 The Committee heard an overview of content in production and the audience impact of current output.
- 2.3 The BBC Wales Merthyr season launched at the previous committee in Merthyr College and was commissioned to coincide to with the bicentenary of the town's Cyfarthfa Castle. The season including network radio, TV and digital output and educational packs for school pupils.
- 2.4 The Committee noted the significant audience performance of the drama *Death Valley* featuring Timothy Spall and Gwyneth Keyworth both in Wales, Network and Abroad via Brit-Box.
- 2.5 Comedy show *Mammoth 2* is in production in Roath Lock Studios in Cardiff.
- 2.6 Long running drama *Casualty* is to be tendered and portrayal of Wales will be one of the new *Casualty*'s requirements.

2.7 The Committee noted the performance of Sports coverage on BBC Wales along with News, and the Wales Orchestra.

2.8 The Director endorsed the BBC's Culture Review and noted her intention to implement the actions from the review across the Nations division. The Committee reviewed the data from the BBC staff survey and discussed how they related to the Wales.

2.9 There is a proposed plan to deliver higher prominence to S4C content on the BBC iPlayer. This would be tabled for discussion at the BBC's Executive Committee.

2.10 There are twelve members of staff appointed as ambassadors for the BBC's Charter Process who will lead a number of workshops for staff and stakeholder engagement during the Charter Renewal process.

2.11 The Committee noted the conclusion of mandatory training for all staff in Generative AI. A number of AI pilots are being undertaken in BBC Wales.

2.12 The BBC has published revised editorial guidelines and there will be training for editorial staff.

2.13 The Committee noted plans for future programme, including a documentary about Welsh women's football, *SOS Extreme Rescues* and a live page relating to the Oasis gigs at the Principality Stadium in July.

2.14 The next Committee would include a summary of the work and performance of the BBC Wales Orchestra.

3. Market Report

3.1 The Committee noted the market report paper.

3.2 The Committee noted new arrangements for listeners to Nations content overseas who will now be able to tune in via BBC.com when BBC Sounds is no longer available.

3.3 The Chair would hold meetings relating to the Creative Sector in Wales and the West.

4. Nations Director report

4.1 The Director thanked the Committee for their support in her new role and outlined her priorities which had been communicated to teams in the Nations, including delivering on objectives; audience impact; Charter renewal and cultural improvements.

4.2 There would be work on progressing the strong working relationship between News and Nations divisions of the BBC.

4.3 The BBC has now committed to going beyond the regulatory thresholds set by OFCOM in relation to regional production criteria. New guidance to independent producers across the UK has been published to reflect this.

4.4 The Buying Model work between Content and Nations would be progressed.

5. Politics in Wales

5.1 The Committee heard an overview of planning for the coverage of the 2026 election in Wales.

5.2 A politics update in the run up to the election would be a standing item at Wales Committee.

5.3 The Wales Committee would review the next edition of the election guidelines before publication.

6. Audiences

6.1 The Committee reviewed the latest audience consumption figures relating to Wales.

7. Finance

7.1 The 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 Bangor in November 2025.

8.3 There were no other matters arising.