



Meeting of the BBC Board Wales Committee

BBC Cardiff

MINUTES

4th March 2026

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

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

ATTENDANCE

Members:

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

With:

- Samantha Sing Finance Director
- Ric Bailey Chief Advisor, Politics (*item 2*)
- Delyth Isaac News Controller, Wales (*item 2*)
- Nia Morgan Senior Finance Business Partner (*item 4*)
- Rebecca Davis Head of Audience Research (*item 7*)
- Mark Grinnell Executive Lead, Nations (secretary)

Apologies:

- Michael Jochowitz Commissioning Editor Factual

BBC WALES COMMITTEE MINUTES

4th March 2026

1. Introduction, minutes of previous Wales Committee

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the Committee and noted an apology from the Editor of Unscripted.
- 1.2 The Minutes from the previous Wales Committee held in Bangor on 6th November 2025 were approved with no conflict.
- 1.3 Items on creative strategy and the National Orchestra of Wales would be discussed in a future Committee.

2. Director's report

- 2.1 The Committee noted progress with the launch of pilot channels from BBC Cymru Wales on YouTube. The initial audience response has been positive. Further plans include increasing Welsh portrayal and attracting young Welsh speakers to the content.
- 2.2 The Director noted successful youth growth pilots which have delivered News impact.
- 2.3 There had been two new Generative AI pilots undertaken in BBC Wales.
- 2.4 The Committee noted progress on 'buying model' plans with Nations and genre commissioning acting as one with a single UK wide strategy. There will be engagement with industry colleagues on the implementation of the plans.
- 2.5 The Committee noted plans for the new season of *Casualty* which would be set in Wales and increase Welsh portrayal.
- 2.6 The Committee noted recent content and editorial highlights including, *Mr Burton*, *Truth about*, *Rapture*, *Witch Farm*, *Tenby Murders*, *Better Later* (comedy from Ruth Jones and Steve Speirs), *Mammoth* and a new podcast called *Anglesey Vampire Killer* on BBC Sounds
- 2.7 There would be a project of video and orchestral output to mark the 60th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster.
- 2.8 BBC Wales Operations team worked with Network Sport to deliver Six Nations coverage, which has resulted in a very a positive working relationship. Future working opportunities are being investigated, including coverage of the FA Cup.

2.19 A programme of stakeholder engagement had been undertaken since the previous Committee, and the BBC Wales leadership team and Director-General had attended a Senedd hearing and would be supplying further written information.

3. Elections and News update

3.1 The Committee noted plans from BBC Wales and wider BBC coverage of the elections in Wales. These include getting to all constituencies throughout the campaign, a series of live audience debates to 'ask the leader', *BBC Question Time* in Wales, Leaders debates for S4C and live pages which are aimed to engage with younger audiences.

3.2 The Committee discussed the pronunciation of new Welsh constituencies which would feature in reporting of the election.

3.3 The Committee noted plans for Party Election Broadcasts on the BBC.

3.4 The Chief Adviser, Politics noted the plans for 'Ask the Leader' debates and ensuring fair balance in the selection of audience members.

3.5 Draft election guidelines will be presented to the EGSC and then published.

3.6 In reporting terms, the Election period for the whole of the BBC starts formally on 30th March (which is when it legally starts in England).

3.7 There would be two briefing sessions for journalistic staff on working with the BBC Election Guidelines in Wales.

4. Budget and Finance

4.1 The Committee noted the wider financial context of savings plans in the BBC and noted areas which are being considered within the BBC Wales leadership team and the principles by which any decision would be taken. For both Wales and the Nations division, these would be taken to ExCo and Board to ratify.

4.2 The Committee noted the financial figures relating to the performance of BBC Wales in the previous quarter.

5. Market Report

5.1 The Committee noted the Market Report paper.

5.2 Renovation work is underway to repair the roof to St David's Hall, the substantive home of the National Orchestra of Wales. The expected repairs are likely to complete in 2027.

5.2 The Charter Green paper is expected to be published before the end of March.

6. Director, Nations report

- 6.1 The Director noted the work on strategy and budget planning which had been undertaken by the division.
- 6.2 The Nations contribution to the BBC's Annual Plan was noted.
- 6.3 The publication of the latest thematic review in portrayal and representation, actions are being implemented with BBC Content division.
- 6.4 Recruitment for a new Executive Lead is being undertaken to support the governance of the Nations Committees.
- 6.5 The Committee noted the work on the Sport plans in Wales and the Chair thanked the team for their hard work.

7. Audiences

- 7.1 The Committee reviewed the latest audience consumption figures relating to Wales and noted the top performing Nations titles originated in 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 8th July 2026.
- 10.3 There were no other matters arising.

Meeting Closed.