

S4C Authority Meeting Minute 11 June 2015, S4C, Llanishen, Cardiff

Meeting No. 388

Present:	Siân Lewis	(Chairman) (Member of the Authority) (Member of the Authority)
S4C staff:	Ian Jones Elin Morris Dafydd Rhys Phil Williams Bethan C. Williams	 (Chief Executive) (Director of Corporate and Commercial Policy) (Director of Content) (Secretary to the Authority) (Assistant to the Secretary to the Authority)
Apologies:	Carol Bell	(Member of the Authority)

1. Welcome and Declaration of interest

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and asked for any member with an interest in the business of the meeting to declare their interest.

See the Register of Interests section of the S4C Authority website for general declarations.

2. **Minutes of meeting 387** (held on 14.05.15)

The minutes of meeting 387 were presented.

The Authority approved the minutes.

3. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive presented his report.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1 The Chairman presented his report and referred in particular to the following matters.

He reported that he and the Chief Executive had written to all MPs in Wales following the General Election offering to meet them to discuss S4C's work. Several have already responded.

He had held a positive meeting with the Secretary of State, Stephen Crabb, and

had an opportunity to update him on the work of S4C and the preparations for the process of securing adequate funding and the renewal of the BBC Charter.

He noted that he had received a response from the Secretary of State at the DCMS, John Whittingdale, stating that he was keen to meet as soon as the diary allows.

A meeting had also been held with Chris Bryant, and it had provided an opportunity to emphasize S4C's key messages.

[Summary: The Chairman referred to the ongoing contact with the DCMS as they prepare for the Spending Review. This relates to the income that comes directly from the DCMS and not S4C's total public income.]

4.2 Annual Report

The Chairman presented a further draft of the Annual Report for Members' consideration and a discussion ensued about a number of improvements to the report, as follows.

It was suggested that the order of the Chairman's introduction be modified to emphasise the positive elements at the beginning of the introduction.

[Summary: There was a discussion about the narrative of the introductions and the Chairman noted that he would consider the members' points for his introduction.]

The map that identifies the geographical distribution of S4C's content spending was referred to and it was noted that south Wales is divided into east and west, whilst north Wales is shown as one region. It was explained that this partition reflects the BARB regions and that most of the spending in the north is in the north west. It was noted that there are no targets for commissioning content on a geographical basis and that it will be commissioned on the basis of the best ideas that are presented.

The Chairman noted that the content report is more qualitative this year and has been designed to present the Authority's performance assessment more clearly rather than creating a detailed record of the programmes broadcast during the year. The Authority was keen to point out that on the whole the service continues to improve, but challenges remain in increasing the awareness of the offering amongst the audience.

A summary of the year's performance was submitted to the BBC Trust at their meeting in May, and the full report will be included in the papers for the Trust's Services Committee next week. Following its consideration by the Committee the Chairman and the Trustee for Wales will discuss the Trust's statement for the Annual Report.

The Report was approved for presentation to the Trust and the DCMS.

4.3 S4C/BBC Meetings

The Chairman noted that friendly and constructive meetings had been held with Rona Fairhead and members of the BBC Trust.

One meeting was held with the Trust, HJ, AE and PW to present the Performance

Assessment and a further meeting with Rona Fairhead, HJ, ECS, PW and Trust officers to discuss the next steps in the relationship between the Authority and the Trust and the preparations for the discussion on the renewal of the BBC Charter. The meetings were positive and the officers wish to continue to discuss the next steps in the relationship between the Authority and Trust.

It was suggested that uncertainty about the future of the Trust could affect these negotiations. It was explained that officers would consider a number of possible scenarios for the future of the relationship monitoring the situation and developments such as publishing a Green Paper and a consultation on the future of the BBC and the Licence fee.

[Summary: There was a discussion about the significance to S4C of any change to the BBC Trust.]

5. **Programmes from the last month**

[Summary: There was a discussion about a number of the programmes broadcast during the month including Parch, Patagonia, the Entertainment and Factual genres, the Urdd Eisteddfod and the General Election programmes.]

6. Viewers' Hotline and Complaints and Compliance Reports

The report from the Viewers' Hotline and the Complaints and Compliance Report were presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

7. Relocation and Co-location Scrutiny Committee

John Davies presented a written summary of the meeting of the Relocation and Co-location Scrutiny Committee held on 4 June, 2015.

It was explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to receive updates on the Co-location negotiations and on whether the conditions set by the Authority had been met. Since the Authority's meeting in May, several meetings have been held between officers of S4C and the BBC to discuss the conditions and other matters.

[Summary: There was then an opportunity to discuss some of the issues arising from the written summary including the possibility of delay, the proposed savings and the timetable for the signing of the legal documents.]

JD was thanked for presenting the update and it was agreed that another meeting of the Scrutiny Committee should be held when appropriate to report on achieving the conditions and also to receive an update on the Relocation plan.

OTHER ISSUES:

8. Work Programme

An update of the work programme showing the Authority's work until July 2016 was presented for information.

9. Any other business

No further matters were discussed.

Date of next meeting: Thursday, July 9, 2015 in Cardiff