

Meeting of the BBC Northern Ireland Committee

MINUTES

Thursday1st February 2024

BBCBlackstaffHouse, Belfast

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

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- 2 Director, BBC Northern Irelan&eport
- 3 Director, BBONations, Report
- 4 Broadcasting House Belfast development
- 5 Audiences
- 6 Finance
- 7 AOB

ATTENDANCE

Members:

- x Michael Smyth, Nonexecutive Director, Member for NI (Chair)
- x Nick Serota, Non-Executive Director
- x Adam SmythDirector, BBC NI
- x Rhodri Talfan Davies, Direct@BONations

With:

- x Mark Adair, Head of Corporate and Community Affairs, BBC NI
- x Rab McConaghy, Head of Audience Researed N(for item 5)
- x Jeremy Ankers, Finance Business part BABC N(for item 6)
- x Mark Grinnell, Executive LeadBBC Nation(secretary)
- x Samantha Sing, Finance Director, BBC Nations (observer)

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1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

1.2 The minutes of the previous Committee (19th October 2023) were approved and no new conflicts were disclosed.

1.3 The ChaicongratulatedSamanthaSingon her appointment to the position of Finance Director, BBC Nationand invited Samanthan observe the Committees part of her induction to the BBC

1.4 There were no apologies for absence

2. Director, BBC Northern Ireland, Report

2.1 TheDirector outlined the pogressmade incompleting a moveo digital rotasin News in agreement with the trades unions.

2.2 There would be stakehold engagement with other community and business groups to follow recent successful meetings with Northern Ireland farming community groups.

2.3 The Director outlined he latest RAJA Radio listening figure and expressed confidence in the BBC Northern Ireland audio conter While BBC RadioUlster is no longer the biggest station reachin Northern Irelandt continues to outperform the rest of the BBC network.

2.4 Work on the BBCB elfast Broadcasting Houstransformation project is underway. The Committee would receive gularupdates throughout the year

6.2 The BBC in Northern Ireland performed wine lthe last quarter of 2023, with higher than average consumption in $\mathbb{Z} \ \mathbb{Z} \ \mathbb{V} \ \mathbb{Z} \ \mathbb{V} \ \mathbb{Z} \ \mathbb{Z}$

6.3 The Committee heard an update on how the audience figbreak down by political to ting intentions. The BBC performs equality nongst those who say they are trionalist, unionist and those whoare neutral.

6.5 The Committee heard there had been a small decline in network radio listening in the most recent RAJR. Thiswould be discussed in the next Committee.

7. Finance

7.1 The Committee heard the 2023/24 forecasts for service spend, hours and divalent full time information that will be disclosed in the Annual report and Accounts and with 2022/23 comparators and a summary of reasons for movements across years.

7.2 Spend in Northern Irelandas apercentageof licence fee raised in NI is forecast to increase.

7.3 TV Spend is forecast to increase in 2024.

7.4 While tBeforecast spend for BBC NI is projected to rise in percentage and actual terms