

S4C Authority Bulletin

July 2000

Appointment of Secretary to the Authority

The Chair formally reported that John Howells had been appointed as Secretary to the Authority. Mr Howells, who is currently the Head of Schools Performance in the Education Department of the National Assembly for Wales, will take up his post in early September.

Director of Corporate Affairs

Reference was made to the fact that Iona Jones, the Director of Corporate Affairs, would be leaving S4C for a new post as Controller of Corporate Affairs of the HTV Group. The Authority thanked Iona Jones for her outstanding contribution to the work of S4C during the five years she had been with the organisation.

Y Byd ar Bedwar

The Authority discussed the programmes broadcast on the subject of the use of English in S4C's Welsh language programmes. The programme interviewed S4C's Chief Executive, representatives of Cylch yr Iaith, and a number of other people involved with the Welsh language and minority languages. The Authority felt that the producers had succeeded in creating a balanced programme, and that the wide range of debates had been presented to S4C's viewers.

Annual Report 1999

Reference was made to the fact that S4C's Annual Report for 1999 had been published on 29 June 2000. The Authority expressed satisfaction with the format of the document, particularly with the way in which it clearly showed that differences in the rôle of the Authority, the Management Team, and the work and targets of the various departments within S4C.

Request for additional funding from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport

The Authority agreed that a request for additional funding should be sent to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport for the 2001 towards the costs of digital broadcasting, in addition to any further requests that S4C would place before the Department for increased funding to be included in the proposed Communications Act.

Cân i Gymru

The Authority received a further report on the events of this year's *Cân i Gymru*. At the end of the day, it was felt that S4C had important lessons to learn, some specifically in relation to the *Cân i Gymru* competition itself, but, more importantly perhaps, regarding S4C's relationship with its viewers. These matters had been discussed by Management Team and, through the departmental briefing system, amongst all S4C staff.

Six monthly meetings with Independent Production Companies

A verbal report was given to the Authority on the meetings that the Director of Programmes had held with all of S4C's programme suppliers. All aspects of programme performance were discussed with the companies in addition to matters relating to marketing, web development, training, the next commissioning process and the future. The exercise had presented S4C's officials with the opportunity to discuss more widely the schedule; where S4C saw itself heading in years to come; and what the Channel's priorities were. It was also felt that these discussions had allowed S4C to gain a better understanding of the companies' viewpoints, however, it was also hoped that companies also had a better understanding of S4C's aims and objectives.

Presentation by the Commissioner for Light Entertainment

The Authority received a presentation by Huw Chiswell, the Commission of Light Entertainment programmes, on the work of his unit. He explained how wide the nature of the programmes that fell into this category were. To give a flavour of the activity within this field attention was given to programmes classified under the headings of: general entertainment, light music, factual entertainment or magazine programmes, quiz and game panel shows, comedy and drama. At the end of the presentation a discussion was held on ideas as to how to strengthen the programmes in this field and a number of points were raised for further consideration by the Management Team.

Other Matters

The following reports were noted:

- Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 31 March 2000.
- A report regarding the Personnel & Remuneration Committee and Complaints Committee.
- Compliance Group report and minutes
- Complaints
- Programme performance
- Financial report
- Commercial activities.

Next meetings

The Authority's next business meeting will be held on 28 July 2000. There will be no meeting in August. The Authority's next open meeting will be held in the Leisure Centre at Blaenau Ffestiniog on Thursday evening, 28 September 2000.