

S4C Authority Bulletin - November 2003

The following is a summary of the main points raised during discussions at the meeting of the S4C Authority held on Friday, 28 November 2003.

Authority Membership

At the beginning of the meeting a warm welcome was extended to the two new Members, Mr Roger Jones and Mr Dafydd Wigley, to their first meeting of the S4C Authority.

TAC and the Code of Practice on Programme Commissioning

Discussions were continuing with TAC but S4C was now close to being able to present a scheme to the ITC/Ofcom that would reflect the requirements of the guidelines. The changes emanating from this would make a significant difference to the way in which S4C conducted the commissioning process.

Cardiff Screen Festival

The Director of Programmes, who was Chair of the Festival, was congratulated on the success of the week. The event attracted far more people this year, and those who had attended said that they had enjoyed themselves.

Celebrating 21 years of Animation in Wales

An excellent event was held at the Old Library, The Hayes, Cardiff on 18 November to celebrate and look back on 21 years of animation in Wales. The occasion was also an opportunity to pay tribute to the former Director of Animation at S4C, Chris Grace, for his work throughout this period.

Cymru'n Creu

The Chair referred to a meeting of this group held on 20 November. During the meeting, the Chair and the Secretary presented an outline of the principles underpinning the review of S4C. The aim was to explain the background to the review and to encourage members of Cymru'n Creu to become involved.

Welsh Woman of the Year

Reference was made to the awards ceremony held on 21 November. Although the event had been a success, concern was expressed about the fact that little use had been made of Welsh during the evening. Nevertheless, S4C's involvement with the event had at least ensured that the programme produced for the evening was bilingual.

Meetings with the BBC -

- (a) A report was given on the meeting between the Chair and the Governor of BBC Wales on 13 November. It had been a very constructive meeting, typified by a clear wish to develop co-operation between both organisations.
- (b) Members were thanked for attending the meeting with members of the Broadcasting Council for Wales on 13 November. All present agreed that it had been a highly positive meeting, held in a friendly atmosphere. It had also been an opportunity to share the principles of the review of S4C with the Broadcasting Council.

ITC/Ofcom Consultation – Carlton/Granada Merger

The Authority noted the S4C response to the consultation on the arrangements for advertising sales and the position of the Carlton/Granada merger. The intention of the ITC to announce the results of the consultation in December was also noted.

Screen Fund

Members noted the details of the Assembly decision not to establish the proposed Fund for film, television and the new media. This now meant that a new funding source to support Welsh language film-making would not be available. The WDA had plans to strengthen the creative industries and to promote the economic benefits of television and film, but no details were as yet available. S4C would be interested in such schemes when they are announced.

Sub-titling

Members gave consideration to a paper describing the present state of affairs in relation to the sub-titling service provided by S4C and noted a number of relevant questions. A detailed discussion ensued and it was agreed that the Management Team should consider the views expressed and report back to the Authority with firm options for discussion.

S4C Review

The Authority was presented with the first draft of a paper outlining the findings of the internal review. Members offered a number of observations on the document as presented, and it was agreed that a revised draft would be presented to the next meeting of the Authority that would reflect the points made.

2004-2013 Budget

The Director of Finance took Members through the document on the recommended ten-year budget, giving particular attention to the budgetary position for 2004. The Authority approved the budget for 2004-2013 as presented.

S4C Relationship with Ofcom

Members discussed a paper that gave consideration to three elements in the regulatory relationship between S4C and Ofcom, namely: the Ofcom review of public broadcasting; the quotas position; and a statement of programmes policy.

Audit Committee

The Chair noted that she had invited Dafydd Wigley to Chair the Audit Committee and that he had agreed to this.

Compliance

Members considered two letters received from Tinopolis following the decision of Members at the meeting held on 26 September 2003 in relation to the edition of *Pnawn Da* broadcast on 5 May 2003. It was hoped that the elements of the letter referring to the steps to be taken to avoid any recurrence of this kind of incident in future was a reflection of the attitude of the company for the future. The Director of Programmes also added that she had in the meantime had a constructive meeting with Tinopolis to discuss a number of issues, amongst them the question of editorial control. It was explained that the Authority's decision that this was a breach of S4C guidelines would be published in the Annual Report.

Other Matters

The following matters were also discussed/noted:

- Report of the Chief Executive – matters for information
- Report of the Director of Programmes
- Financial Report
- Report of the Managing Director of S4C Masnachol
- Complaints Report
- Report and Minutes of the meeting of the Compliance Group held on 14 November 2003
- Report on the Viewers Hotline
- Research Report