

<p style="text-align: center;">S4C Authority Bulletin - January 2004</p>
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The following summarises the main issues discussed by the S4C Authority during its meeting held on Friday, 23 January 2004.

Sympathy

Members expressed great sadness on hearing that Gareth Lloyd Williams had died under tragic circumstances the previous day. He had been a remarkably creative man and had produced some exceptional work for S4C in the field of drama over the years. The Chief Executive would be visiting the family during the week-end to express his personal condolences along with those of all at S4C.

S4C's Charity Appeal

- (a) It was reported that the 2003 Appeal had come to an end and that the sum raised was £156,000 with Ty Hafan and Ty Gobaith each receiving £78,000. Members were very pleased with the sum raised and this reflected the great effort made by staff at S4C and all who were associated with the Appeal throughout the year.
- (b) Cefin Campbell, Chairman of the Appeal, reported that interviews had been held with regard to the charity to be supported in 2004. The interview panel decided that Barnados should benefit from this year's appeal. Representatives of the charity had given an excellent presentation on the day and it augured well that Barnados had a keen team of people who would be able to offer support in the work of staging events etc during the coming year.

External Review of S4C

The DCMS had stated that they were now about to reach a position when a statement would be made with regard to reviewers. It was agreed that a message would be sent to Authority Members as soon as information was available on this issue.

Ofcom Director in Wales

Reference was made to the fact that Rhodri Williams (who was, for the time being, Chairman of the Welsh Language Board) had been appointed as Ofcom's Director in Wales. It was felt that this was a good appointment for Welsh television in light of his knowledge of the media and the position of the Welsh language in Wales.

BBC Charter Review

The Chair had attended a dinner for a select number of people held by the BBC in Cardiff. The aim of the evening was to invite comments about the BBC as a part of

the consultation process with regard to the BBC Charter Review. The Chair took advantage of the opportunity to express how S4C would wish to see the relationship between the two broadcasters developing in the future.

Ofcom

The Chief Executive referred to the fact that a number of events and meetings which related to Ofcom had taken place during the previous fortnight. Specific reference was made to the following:

- (a) Public Broadcasting Service Review – Ofcom officers had visited S4C during the previous week to discuss the public broadcasting review in Britain. The meeting formed a part of the qualitative review which was being held by Ofcom and discussions were held on matters relating to themes of public broadcasting in general and S4C's perspective on these issues. S4C had already been preparing extensive details for the quantitative research work which was being carried out by Ofcom in preparation for this exercise.
- (b) Ofcom Launch – it was reported that the Chief Executive had attended Ofcom's official launch held in London.
- (c) Regulating Adverts – the Chief Executive had attended this meeting on 21 January where discussions were held on self-regulation with regard to broadcasting adverts.
- (ch) Codes of Practice for Commissioning – on 21 January, the Chief Executive and the Secretary attended an Ofcom meeting with independent broadcasters and companies when codes of practice for commissioning were discussed.
- (d) EPGs – The Chief Executive appeared on the platform at the Westminster e-Forum, where discussions took place on Ofcom's consultative paper on EPGs and access.

Internal Review of S4C

The Authority considered the latest draft paper on the internal review. Some further comments were made concerning points to be incorporated in the final document. The Authority approved the report subject to Members' comments being taken into consideration.

Code of Practice for the Commissioning of Programmes

Members discussed a paper which presented the latest situation concerning the Code of Practice for the Commissioning of Programmes. The Authority's discussions concentrated on: the effect of the Code on the discussions which the Programmes Department would hold with producers and the negotiation of contracts; TAC's response to the matters under consideration; and the situation with regard to how many times a programme could be repeated on television within a broadcasting package on S4C. It was agreed to give the Authority's approval to the Code of Practice in its amended form.

Sponsorship

The Authority considered a number of applications for sponsorship and it was agreed that support should be given to the following:

Edinburgh Television Festival
Welsh Media Careers Information Day
Learners' Eisteddfod Conway, Denbigh, Flintshire and Wrexham
VLV Spring Conference
The Urdd
Federation of Young Farmers
Sgrin Wales
Welsh National Opera's London Season
Bafta Wales
Welsh International Black Film Festival
Institute of Welsh Affairs

Compliance

- (a) Compliance Group Report – Consideration was given to the report by the Compliance Group which resulted from the meeting on 9 January 2004. There were no specific issues which needed to be brought to the attention of the Authority at present, but the Monitoring Unit's report was enclosed on the research on the attention given to the various locations and regions in Wales. It was noted that every district had been featured during the three weeks in question, although some featured very frequently (e.g. Carmarthenshire, Arfon-Dwyfor), whilst others received much less attention (e.g. Breconshire). However, a general balance existed between the three regions, with the North receiving 34% of the attention; Mid-Wales receiving 37% and the South receiving 29%.
- (b) A letter from Eluned Morgan, MEP – In addition to the Compliance Group report, the Chair referred to a letter which she had received from Eluned Morgan, MEP, complaining about the programme which was broadcast to celebrate Dafydd Iwan's 60th birthday. Ms Morgan believed that it was no longer appropriate for S4C to broadcast such a programme on Dafydd Iwan following his appointment as President of Plaid Cymru. It was agreed that the Chair should deal directly with this issue.

Authority Members' Register of Interests

A draft register of interests was presented which reflected that which had been declared by Authority Members in January 2004. Members were asked to confirm that the details which appeared were complete and correct. According to the usual procedure, it was agreed that the register should be published on S4C's website, with copies available to the public in the Channel's offices in Cardiff and Caernarvon.

Work Programme for the Authority's Meetings in 2004

A work programme for the coming year was agreed upon.

Presentation by the Head of Human Resources

The Head of Human Resources gave a presentation on her department's work. She began by outlining the aims of the department and proceeded to give details of the extensive legislation which had to be considered during the last few years as well as the policies published by the department. Following this, she outlined the nature of the department's work with regard to: equal opportunities; pay; recruiting; working conditions; staff induction; training and development. She gave details of the various courses which had been arranged for staff and explained how these were relevant to the aims found in the Corporate Plan/departmental plans. She also drew attention to the fact that S4C had secured the Investors in People Award for the second time. The presentation was brought to a close by presenting a number of statistics regarding the workforce in terms of male/female ratio (and the type of posts held by them); age; length of service; reasons for leaving etc.

Other Issues

The following issues were also discussed/noted:

- Minutes of the Audit and Risk Management Committee
- Report by the Director of Programmes
- Financial Report
- Chief Executive's Report – Matters for information
- Complaints Report
- Report and Minutes of the Compliance Group held on 5 December 2003
- Viewers' Hotline Report
- Research Report
- Report by the Managing Director of S4C Masnachol