

## **S4C Authority Bulletin - September 2004**

This bulletin reports on the Authority's business meeting held on 24 September 2004.

### **Welcome**

A very warm welcome was extended to John Walter Jones to his first meeting as a Member of the Authority. Reference was made to the fact that Winston Roddick, the other newly-appointed member, was unable to attend this meeting due to a prior commitment in his duties as QC, but members looked forward to welcoming him to the Authority at the October meeting. Members also welcomed Tim Hartley, who took up his post as Director of Corporate Affairs at S4C on 6 September.

### **Secretary to the Authority**

It was reported that interviews had been held for this position, but that no appointment had been made to date.

### **Clywch Report**

It was noted that officers were preparing revised child protection guidelines for use during the production process for children's programmes for S4C. The guidelines would be submitted to the Authority at its next meeting. Once the guidelines were agreed, S4C would then consult with the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

### **Meetings between S4C and BBC Wales**

It was noted that a useful meeting had taken place between the respective Chairs and Chief Executives on 9 September. Both Chief Executives would meet on 27 September to seek to make further progress on the relevant issues resulting from the Laughton Report relating to the relationship between both organisations. Members also discussed the meeting held between the S4C Authority and the Broadcasting Council on 9 September.

**Compliance** [*Dafydd Wigley, Member of the Authority, declared his interest in this item.*]

Members discussed further the report presented at the previous meeting on the broadcasting time allocated to the various political parties during 2003. The Director of Programmes would present, before the end of the year, a revised policy for political party broadcasts for the consideration of the Authority.

## **Laughton Report**

It was noted that the timing of the publication of this report by the DCMS, i.e. during the summer months, had been unfortunate. This had meant that the review had not made the kind of impression that S4C might have hoped for. It was now necessary to re-engage with the report and to develop the required degree of momentum. To that end, the Chair would write to the Secretary of State for the DCMS informing her of S4C's intention to send her its response to the Laughton Report once the Channel has consulted with its partners.

## **Analogue Switch-off**

Members noted the ongoing discussions in relation to Government plans for analogue switch-off in due course.

## **OFCOM Public Consultation: Proposed Broadcasting Code**

Members considered a paper drawing the Authority's attention to the main changes proposed by OFCOM to the rules and guidelines relating to programme compliance. It was agreed that the content of the paper should form the basis of S4C's response to the OFCOM consultation. It was noted that the response would be published on the OFCOM website.

## **DCMS Public Consultation: Political Party Broadcasts**

The Authority considered a paper setting out the proposed response to the Government's consultation on political party broadcasts. The Chief Executive also gave an oral report. The Authority agreed that a response should be sent to the DCMS, including the addition contained in the oral report. It was noted that the DCMS would publish the response on its website.

## **Membership of S4C Authority Committees**

In the light of the number of recent departures and newly-appointed members, it was felt opportune to review committee membership. The following were agreed:

### **Audit and Risk Management Committee**

Dafydd Wigley (Chair)  
Eira Davies  
John Walter Jones

### **Personnel and Remuneration Committee**

Enid Rowlands (Chair)  
Roger Jones  
Elan Closs Stephens

### **Complaints Committee**

Winston Roddick (Chair)  
Carys Howell  
Chris Llewelyn  
Alwyn Roberts (independent member of the Committee).

## **Authority Meetings in 2005**

The Authority agreed its timetable of meetings for 2005.

## **Other Matters**

The following matters were also discussed/noted:

- Report of the Chief Executive – matters for information
- 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 10 September 2004
- Report on the Viewers Hotline
- Research Report