



S4C Authority Bulletin
Meeting 347 – 21 July 2011
S4C, Cardiff

This bulletin reports on the meeting of the Authority held on 21 July 2011.

1. Matters arising from minutes of meeting 346

The minutes of meeting 346 were approved.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented his report. He referred to three levels of discussion going on at the same time, namely:

- (i) between the DCMS / BBC Trust /S4C regarding membership of the S4C Authority and the Management Team.
- (ii) between DCMS / BBC Trust - to prepare a memorandum on S4C.
- (iii) at the Parliamentary level in the Public Bodies Bill.

S4C and the BBC Trust are preparing a short paper for submission to DCMS which sets out what has already been agreed. The intention is to publish the model / proposal for public consultation as soon as possible. The members were happy with the discussions and agreed with the basic points that the officers have identified.

3. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive presented his/her report whilst noting the following in particular:

Restructuring - 31 applications for early retirement have been approved by now and some individuals have started to leave. He is meeting with each of these individuals before they leave.

Diversity - S4C had organized an event on Diversity at the Atrium, Cardiff and the response has been extremely positive. Since the conference, S4C has published a video on Diversity on the S4C website.

The National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales – there will be a launch at the Eisteddfod this year to announce the arrangement for safeguarding S4C's early programmes and films.

Co-productions – AEO noted the announcement of the new fund to support co-productions on Tuesday, 19.07.2011.

4. Vision 2012

AEO gave the latest feedback following the publication of the Vision for 2012-2015 on Friday 01.07.11. HJ, AEO, GR and GLL attended the annual meeting of TAC in Aberystwyth on Monday, 04.07.11 to discuss the matter. Since then meetings have been held with companies and individuals to discuss the core proposals in Cardiff, Caernarfon and Llangollen.

5. Presentation on S4C's Technical Needs and Provision

AR gave a presentation on the technical needs and provision of S4C. The presentation was divided into three parts namely:

- Transmitting programmes;

- Broadcasting Options (Playout) for S4C;
- Strategic Issues.

6. Report of the Director of Commissioning

GR presented his written report. The schedule has recently consisted of a balance between traditional and innovative programs in order to attract a section of the audience who do not watch S4C regularly. Attention was drawn to the new "apps" introduced in the field of children's programs. Reference was also made to the broadcast of the opera Marriage of Figaro and the decision to broadcast it over two nights. He also referred to the response on Twitter following a week of the Cariad @ Iaith programmes.

7. Presentation on S4C's Drama Provision

A presentation on Drama was requested in order to explore the most appropriate means of allowing the Authority to formulate and express opinions about the performance of programmes. The drama series **Alys** was compared with **Porthpenwaig** by looking at the viewing figures, the audience profile and cost of the series. In discussing the presentation, the Authority noted that the facts confirm the important contribution that drama can make to the success of the service. The Authority believes that this shows that both series have made a positive but different contribution to the service. It was agreed that in future programmes should be discussed at genre level, but that the Content Committee should do so.

8. Other Matters

The following matters were also discussed / noted:

- Research Report
- Reports on Internal Savings and Restructuring
- Report and Recommendations of the Audit and Risk Management Committee
- Report and Recommendations of the Commercial Board
- Quarter 2 Report on the Corporate Plan
- Quarter 2 Report on Diversity and Talent Development
- Quarter 2 Training Report
- Compliance and Complaints Report and Viewers' Hotline
- Finance Report