



S4C Authority Bulletin
Meeting 346 – 16 June 2011
S4C, Cardiff

This bulletin reports on the meeting of the Authority held on 16 June 2011.

1. Matters arising from minutes of meeting 345

The minutes of meeting 345 were approved.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented his report.

He noted that he had met with officials of the DCMS on Tuesday, June 16 and then members of staff of the BBC Trust, Professor Elan Closs Stephens and Mark Thompson.

The Chairman asked the Chief Executive for an update on the discussions between S4C, the BBC and DCMS and AEO gave a summary of the situation.

It was noted that the Chairman and Lord Patten, Chairman of the BBC Trust, will meet next week.

It was reported that the Cabinet Office has announced today that there will be a change to S4C within the Public Bodies Bill before the end of June.

3. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive presented his report.

He presented papers on staff restructuring and noted that 30 applications had been received for voluntary redundancy. The Management Team will assess the applications and it is expected that an announcement of the decisions will be made to staff on Wednesday, June 22.

He thanked the staff who had undertaken the work for their professionalism during a difficult time.

4. Vision 2012 and beyond

Following the presentation made to the Content Committee of the Authority on June 6th and further comments received, MD presented an updated version of Vision 2012. There was a discussion regarding the issues arising in relation to (a) the nature of the vision (b) the details of the timetable and (c) the system for supplying programmes.

The decision to focus the major investment in programmes during peak hours and timetabling the majority of repeats outside peak hours was approved.

The importance of achieving the aims identified in the previous discussion was noted, namely: (i) viewing figures (ii) programme standards (iii) appreciation (iv) value for money, and (v) the broader impact.

The nature of the commissioning process and delivery were discussed. The Authority approved the proposal to ensure a transparent, open and fair system, based on clear principles. The principle of ensuring competition in order to trigger the provision of the best ideas was noted and endorsed, whilst at the same time giving as much stability to suppliers as is consistent with this principle.

With these comments as background, the Authority approved the Vision 2012, with the new timetable commencing from the 1st of March 2012.

The 2012+ Group were thanked for their thorough and comprehensive work.

5. Report of the Director of Commissioning

Amongst others, MD drew attention to some of the programmes that are currently being shot – Teulu, in Aberaeron, Gwaith Cartref and Pianissimo.

The provision from the Royal Welsh Show this year is quite different following the switch off of S4C2. The live broadcasting from the show will start on Sunday for the first time this year. It will be possible to follow the horses ring and cattle ring on the web, and items will be packaged for viewing again online.

RTh referred to the increase in viewing figures from the Urdd Eisteddfod this year and asked for details of the viewers outside Wales. There was praise for the provision on the web from the Eisteddfod. It was comprehensive and it was easier to find the on-demand items than ever before.

6. Approval of 2010 Annual Report

PW noted that he had resubmitted the 2010 Annual Report and had received minor amendments from the members and officers. On the basis of what was discussed, members approved the report.

7. Other Matters

The following matters were also discussed/noted:

- Research Report
- Compliance and Complaints Report
- Finance Report
- Report from the Commercial Board