



S4C Authority Bulletin
Meeting 338 – 18 November 2010
S4C, Cardiff

This bulletin reports on the meeting of the Authority held on 18 November 2010.

1. Matters arising from minutes of meeting 337

The minutes of meeting 337 were approved.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented his report.

He noted that he and the Chief Executive have been invited to give evidence before the Select Committee on Welsh Affairs in December.

He had attended a conference in Scotland and had given a presentation on the work of S4C as a minority language broadcaster.

He had recorded an interview for Y Byd ar Bedwar which was to be broadcast that night.

He also referred to an article in the Western Mail by CE, Head of Research at S4C, which presented the true facts about S4C viewing figures. He thanked her for writing the article.

3. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive presented his report.

He noted that he had attended a forum organised by the Assembly Government to discuss S4C. There had been a debate in the Assembly yesterday. The Welsh Language Society has organised a rally in Cardiff on 6 November to protest against budget cuts to S4C.

The discussions with the BBC regarding the renewal of the strategic partnership for the statutory 10 hours are continuing. Discussions regarding the future funding of S4C from the licence fee will take place independently of these discussions regarding the 10 hours.

A paper was presented outlining possible models for the discussions with the DCMS and the BBC regarding S4C's funding from the licence fee from 2013 onwards. Officials had prepared models that would safeguard the independence of S4C, but that would also provide accountability for the spending of part of the licence fee to the BBC Trust. There was discussion about the models and the next steps. Officials will undertake further work on the models and will continue to discuss with the DCMS.

4. Presentation by Sir Jon Shortridge

Sir Jon submitted his report on the corporate governance of S4C. He explained that it is important for the Authority to take ownership of his report and its recommendations and to use them as the basis for developing a new system of corporate governance that will be suitable for S4C.

The Authority discussed the report and the next steps. The Authority will consider the recommendations in more detail over the coming months and prepare their response and an

action plan which will be published in full in due course. The report will also be published in full.

The Chairman thanked Sir Jon for preparing a detailed report and for meeting with the members to submit his report.

5. Report of the Director of Commissioning

The Director of Commissioning presented his report.

He referred to the programme output, noting that the autumn's output had been successful and had attracted encouraging audiences. The Viewers' Evening programme broadcast live recently had also been a success, with nearly a thousand people making contact to express their views on S4C's output.

6. Other Issues

In addition, we discussed / noted the following issues:

- Staffing Report
- Research Report
- Monthly Finance Report
- Compliance and Complaints Report