



Meeting of the BBC Editorial Guidelines and Standards Committee

MINUTES

15 January 2026

Boardroom 3028, Broadcasting House, London

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Minutes of the 15 January Meeting and Matters Arising
2. Review of the Editorial Guidelines and Standards Committee: Implementation
3. Editorial Risks and Issues
4. Ofcom Session
5. Editorial Reviews: Update
6. Editorial Compliance and Complaints
7. Public Perceptions of Impartiality
8. Papers for Noting
9. AOB

ATTENDANCE

Members:

- Caroline Thomson Chair
- Tim Davie Director-General
- Robbie Gibb Non-executive director

With:

Rhodri Talfan Davies	Executive Director
Rhuanedd Richards	Director, Nations
Jonathan Munro	Interim CEO News and Current Affairs
David Jordan	Director, Editorial Standards and Policy
Peter Johnston	Director, Complaints and Editorial Reviews
Paul Oldfield	Chief of Staff to the Chair and Director-General
Jo Clarke	Secretary to the Committee
Rizwana Rahmani	Executive Lead, Editorial Policy and Standards
David Grossman	Senior Editorial Adviser
Cristina Nicolotti Squires	Group Director for Broadcasting and Media, Ofcom (item 4)
Siobhan Walsh	Director, Content Policy, Ofcom (item 4)
Laura Rhea	Head of Standards, Ofcom (item 4)
Simon Coates	Senior Editorial Adviser (item 5)
Helen Moor	Portfolio Head of Audiences (item 7)
Emma Theedom	Head of Audiences, News (item 7)

APOLOGIES

None

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. Apologies and Conflicts of Interest

- 1.1 There were no apologies for the meeting.
- 1.2 No conflicts of interest were declared in addition to those already recorded.

2. Minutes from the 13 November Meeting and Matters Arising

- 1.1 The minutes of the meeting on the 13 November were approved.

Matters Arising

- 1.2 The Committee noted that this was the final meeting of the Editorial Guidelines and Standards Committee following approval of the recommendations flowing from the review of the Committee. It would be chaired by Caroline Thomson as agreed by the Board as part of the governance changes to the Committee. The Committee noted that the first meeting of the Editorial Standards Committee would take place in March, once its additional non-executive membership had been appointed by the Board.
- 1.3 The Committee noted that the Thematic Review of Portrayal and Representation would be published on 29 January.

Forward Business

- 1.4 The Committee discussed the forward agenda for the March meeting and proposals for future editorial reviews.

2. EGSC Review: Implementation

- 2.1 The Committee discussed the operational implementation of the recommendations from the review of EGSC.
- 2.2 The Committee discussed the revised Terms of Reference. It was agreed that given the increased non-executive membership of the Committee it would be appropriate to increase the quorum from one non-executive plus the Director-General to two non-executives plus the Director-General.

- 2.3 The Committee discussed and agreed the revised role descriptions for the external editorial advisers. The positions would be advertised and the recruitment process run by Nominations Committee as agreed as part of the review.
- 2.4 The Committee discussed the new triage process and how it would manage queries raised by the Committee. An action grid would be introduced to ensure that queries were followed up.

3. Emerging Editorial Risks and Issues

- 3.1 The Committee noted a range of emerging editorial risks and issues.
- 3.2 The Committee discussed the upcoming elections in the UK. A steering group was now in place to oversee and advise on election coverage on local and network services.

4 Ofcom Session

- 4.1 The Committee welcomed representatives from Ofcom for its first session of 2026.
- 4.2 The Chair updated Ofcom on the implementation of the EGSC Review recommendations and the Committee's work on thematic reviews. There was discussion of Ofcom's Annual Report on the BBC which had been published in November.

5. Editorial Reviews

Thematic Review of Middle East Coverage

- 5.1 The Committee received an update on the search for the leadership of the review.

Thematic Review of BBC Coverage of Energy Policy and Climate Change

- 5.2 The Committee noted an update on preparation for a thematic review of BBC coverage of energy policy and climate change.
- 5.3 The Committee approved the next steps in the development of the terms of reference for the review.

6. Editorial Compliance and Complaints

Stage 2 Complaints Analysis

- 6.1 The Committee considered the Stage 2 complaints report. The Committee noted the reason for the delay in turnaround times for complaints responses at Stage 2.
- 6.2 The Committee noted an update from David Jordan on Ofcom's preliminary finding on the Panorama programme about the shooting of Chris Kaba.

Stage 1 Complaints Reporting

- 6.3 The Committee noted the complaints reporting for Stage 1 complaints handling.

Ofcom Complaints Reports

- 6.4 The Committee noted the complaints reports which had been submitted to Ofcom over the period.

7. Public Perceptions of Impartiality

- 7.1 The Committee received a presentation on public perceptions of impartiality.
- 7.2 Directors noted that whilst trust levels had held steady for BBC News, overall trust in the BBC had declined along with all UK broadcasters. Further research would be commissioned by the Executive to explore the issues in depth.

8. AOB

- 8.1 There was no other business.