



Meeting of the BBC Board Wales Committee

BBC Bangor

MINUTES

6th November 2025

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Introduction, minutes of previous Wales Committee
2. Director, BBC Wales Report
3. Market Report
4. Bangor and the North report
5. Nations Director's Report
6. Elections
7. Audiences
8. Finance
9. Culture
10. AOB and close

ATTENDANCE

Members:

- Michael Plaut, Non-executive Director (Member for Wales) (Chair)
- Michael Smyth, Non-executive Director
- Rhuanedd Richards, Interim Director, Nations
- Garmon Rhys, Interim Director, BBC Wales
- Rhys Evans, Head of Corporate Affairs and Public Policy, BBC Wales

With:

- Michael Jochnowitz Commissioning Editor Factual
- Samantha Sing Finance Director
- Sian Gwynedd Senior Head of Content Production (*item 4*)
- Dafydd Meredydd Senior Head of Content Production Radio Cymru (*item 4*)
- Delyth Isaac News Controller, Wales (*item 6*)
- Rebecca Davis Head of Audience Research (*item 7*)
- Nia Morgan Senior Finance Business Partner (*item 8*)
- Sarah Last Head of HR, Wales (*item 9*)
- Mark Grinnell Executive Lead, Nations (*secretary*)

BBC WALES COMMITTEE MINUTES

6th November 2025

1. Introduction, minutes of previous Wales Committee

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the Committee and thanked the team at BBC Bangor for hosting the meeting.

1.2 The Chair gave an account of stakeholder engagement undertaken since the previous committee including the Wales Screen Summit and BBC Proms and additionally noted his attendance at the England Committee.

1.3 The Chair congratulated the BBC Bangor team on their 90th Birthday celebrations and thanked the Committee for joining him at the Stakeholder event on the 5th November at the Management Centre in Bangor.

1.3 The minutes from the Previous Committee were approved with no conflicts.

2. Director, Wales report

2.1 The Director noted highlights of BBC Wales output on TV, Radio and Online - including *Death Valley* which is being sold outside the UK. *The Guest*, a Cardiff based thriller, has had significant impact online.

2.2 The Committee noted plans for future co-commissioned scripted and unscripted content.

2.3 The Committee noted feedback relating to production of *The Guest*.

2.4 The Director discussed recent awards, which include 12 Bafta Cymru awards.

2.4 The Committee heard about audience consumption of News and recent coverage of the Caerphilly by-election.

2.5 The Director noted the most recent audience figures published by RAJAR for Radio Wales and Radio Cymru. The Director also highlighted new programmes which have been launched on the radio stations.

2.6 The Make a Difference awards in Wales would be held again in 2026.

2.7 BBC Wales was the winner for the Top 50 D&I Team in the 2025 On Con Icon Awards.

2.8 BBC Gen AI pilots have been undertaken in Wales, including a sport commentary feed.

2.9 Future Six Nations production would be delivered in partnership with BBC Sport in 2026.

2.10 Approval had been given by the BBC Executive Committee for a new iPlayer partnership with S4C. The financial proposition for this is being discussed.

2.11 The Chair of the BBC Board would make a speech in Cardiff.

3. Market Report

3.1 The Committee noted the market report paper.

3.2 The Committee noted the challenge to convert audio listening in Wales from traditional linear output on FM to smart speaker digital reception methods ahead of potential UK Government proposals for future linear switch-off.

3.3 There had been meetings between Ofcom and BBC Wales recently where discussions had personalisation of iPlayer.

4. Bangor and the North

4.1 The Committee noted the paper on BBC output in the North, from bases in Wrexham and Bangor for Radio Wales, Radio Cymru and News output along with partnership working such as the relationship with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the Universities of Bangor and Wrexham.

4.2 The Committee noted the BBC Bangor Birthday celebrations to commemorate broadcasting from the base for 90 years.

4.2 The Committee heard about recent editorial highlights including Radio Cymru *Sesiwn Unnos* – a series of musical compositions created in an overnight time frame and played out on the radio. This follows a folk-law tradition where owners could claim land if they had built a property on the site in the hours of darkness during a single night.

4.3 The Committee discussed the tech and property fit and utilisation of the bases in the North and future resilience plans for Bangor and Wrexham.

4.4 The Committee discussed the utilisation of buildings and noted in Cardiff the occupancy of the building in Central Square had increased recently.

5. Nations Director's report

5.1 The Committee noted developments on the work ahead of Charter on the capacity to tell homegrown stories across the UK – including organisational and editorial workstreams.

5.2 Plans for co-commissioning (buying model on working with Nations and Content divisions) would be announced as a response to the BBC Board thematic review on portrayal which would be published in the final quarter of 2025.

5.3 Divisional audience targets are green during the first six months of the financial year. Wales titles have helped maintain this performance. Sounds performance needs further attention to continue to reach audience targets.

5.4 A pan-Nations election steering group has been set up and meets regularly. There would be pilot working with BBC Verify and BBC Scotland.

6. News and Elections Coverage

6.1 The Committee heard an update on the previous Committee discussion on elections and further plans for coverage of forthcoming Wales elections.

6.2 Your Voice and BBC Verify brands would be used in Wales in election coverage.

7. Audiences

7.1 The Committee reviewed the latest audience consumption figures relating to Wales and noted the top performing Nations titles originated in Wales.

8. Finance

8.1 The Committee noted the financial figures relating to the performance of BBC Wales.

9. Culture

9.1 The Committee heard a summary of work being undertaken in Wales as part of the BBC's Culture Review and Call it Out staff campaign as well as leadership training and staff survey feedback.

10. AOB

10.1 The Chair thanked the Committee members and everyone who had contributed to the meeting.

10.2 The next meeting would be held in Cardiff on the 4th March 2026.

10.3 There were no other matters arising.

Meeting Closed.