

Meeting of the BBC Northern Ireland Committee

MINUTES

Thursday1st February 2024

BBCBlackstaffHouse, Belfast

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- 1 Z] Œ [Á o } inutes/of previousBBCNorthern Ireland Committee
- 2 Director, BBC Northern Irelan&eport
- 3 Director, BBCNations, Report
- 4 Broadcasting House Belfast development
- 5 Audiences
- 6 Finance
- 7 AOB

ATTENDANCE

Members:

- x Michael Smyth, Nonexecutive Director, Member for NI (Chair)
- x Nick SerotaNon-Executive Director
- x Adam SmythDirector, BBC NI
- x Rhodri Talfan Davies, Direct@BCNations

With:

- x Mark Adair, Head of Corporate and Community Affairs, BBC NI
- x Rab McConaghy, Head of Audience Reseable N(for item 5)
- x Jeremy Ankers, Finance Business part Ber C Nofor item 6)
- x Mark Grinnell Executive LeadBBC Nation(secretary)
- x Samantha Sing, Finance Director, BBC Nations (observer)
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- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

- 1.2 The minutes of the previous Committee (19th October 2023) were approved and no new conflicts were disclosed.
- 1.3 The ChaicongratulatedSanantha Singon her appointment to the position of Finance Director, BBC Nationand invited Sananthan observe the Committees part of her induction to the BBC
- 1.4 There were no apologies for absence
- 2. Director, BBC Northern Ireland, Report
- 2.1 The Director outlined the pagressmade incompleting a move o digital rotasin News in agreement with the trades unions.
- 2.2 There would be stakeholdengagementwith other community and business groups to follow recent successful meetings with Northern Ireland farming community groups.
- 2.3 The Director outlined the latest RAJAR adio listening figure and expressed confidence in the BBC Northern Ireland audio content the BBC Radio Ulster is no longer the biggest station reachin Northern Ireland continues to outperform the rest of the BBC network.
- 2.4 Work on the BBC Belfast Broadcasting Houstransformation project is underway. The Committee would receive gular updates throughout the year
- 2.5 The Director ommended the Stepher Nolan and Newsproduction teams for coverage of š Z] Á I[• ‰ } Á Œ Z Œ] v PNo‰ } o] š] o μ ‰ š X

- 6.2 The BBC in Northern Ireland performed winelthe last quarter of 2023, with higher than average consumption in Z Z } v } (š v [v Z μ v] À Œ o [u μ Œ u v š } v š Z ‰
- 6.3 The Committee heard an update on how the audience figbreak down by political oring intentions. The BBC performs equal mongst those who say they are trionalist, unionist and those who are neutral.
- 6.5 The Committee heard there had been a small decline in network radio listening in the most recent RAJR. This would be discussed in the next Committee.

7. Finance

- 7.1 The Committee heard th 2023/24 forecasts for service spend, hours and policy lime information that will be disclosed in the Annual report and Accounts with 2022/23 comparators and a summary of reasons for movements across years.
- 7.2 Spend in Northern Irelandas apercentageof licence fee raised in NI is forecast to increase.
- 7.3 TV Spend is forecast to increase in 2024.
- 7.4 While theforecast spend for BBC NI is projected to rise in percentage and actual terms