



Meeting of the BBC Board Scotland Committee

BBC Edinburgh, The Tun, Edinburgh

MINUTES

25th June 2026

Members:

Muriel Gray	Non Executive Director, Scotland (Chair)
Hayley Valentine	Director, Scotland
Rhuanedd Richards	Interim Director, Nations
Luke McCullough	Director, Corporate Affairs, Nations

With

Lorna Clarke	Commissioning Director, Music
Samantha Sing	Divisional Finance Director, Nations
Non Tudur Williams	Executive Lead, Nations (secretary)
Victoria Easton-Riley	Senior Head of Content Production (item 3)
Lesley Farquharson	Head of Audience Research Scotland and NI (item 4 & 7)
Gail Capaldi	Senior Finance Business Partner (item 8)

Apologies

Samir Shah	Chairman, BBC Board
------------	---------------------

Agenda

1. Chair's Introduction
2. Previous Minutes 25th March 2026
3. Director, Scotland Report
4. Audio update
5. Election look-back
6. Market Report
7. Interim Director, Nations Report
8. Audiences
9. Finance
10. AOB and Close

1. Welcome and Previous Minutes

1.1 The minutes from the previous meeting (25 March 2026) were approved.

1.2 The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and the Committee recorded its congratulations to the incoming Deputy Director-General.

1.3 The next Scotland Committee would be held on 14th October 2026.

1.4 The Chair expressed warm congratulations to the whole team on the Scottish election coverage. She also noted that she had recently visited the set of *The Traitors*, filmed in Scotland.

2. Director, BBC Scotland report

2.1 The Director, BBC Scotland outlined recent content highlights which included political and sports coverage.

2.2 The Committee welcomed the news that the BBC has extended the football rights to include the UEFA 2028 men's qualifiers and paid tribute to negotiating team.

2.3 The growth of the Scottish Football YouTube channel was noted with future content plans highlighted.

2.4 The recent election featured strongly throughout the discussions with reflections on the audience engagement and content initiatives. Collaborations with other departments within the BBC were noted including Verify. Following the election, political engagement has continued apace across Scotland and Westminster.

2.5 The Committee discussed the recent savings announcement. A voluntary redundancy scheme is now open as part of wider BBC Nations and Local savings plans. The Director outlined potential areas of savings, with further detail to be developed.

2.6 The Committee noted that the Director, BBC Scotland is the Nations' representative on the new Commissioning model steering group. The Committee heard there was a successful kick-off meeting for the teams recently.

3. Audio update

3.1 The Head of Audio presented to the Committee.

3.2 Changes to the schedules were noted with almost every programme having increased its listening figures. The visualisation strategy has been successful with video views and impressions increasing.

3.3 The Committee noted that a brand refresh had also taken place matching the voice and tone of the station.

3.4 The Chair congratulated the Head of Audio and her team for their brilliant work and wished them well for the future.

4. Election look-back

4.1 The Committee noted that the election results drove mass, event level reach at national scale. Election results coverage continues to be a shared national moment where audiences converge at scale, with the BBC as the central destination.

4.2 It was noted the BBC was the dominant destination for audiences on results day and was most likely to be selected as best for its election coverage overall and as top source for impartial coverage.

4.3 The Committee discussed audience performance data relating to election content.

5. Market Report

5.1 Noted the Market report.

5.2 It was noted that the TV Festival will relocate from Edinburgh to Manchester. It was also noted that the UK Government has published a Green Paper on “a new strategic direction for UK media”, examining the future prominence of trusted sources, and of TV distribution.

5.3 The Committee noted the Scottish Affairs Committee has published an inquiry into the future of Gaelic Broadcasting.

5.4 The Committee discussed direct audience responses to the BBC during the election period and how social media could support engagement in future.

6. Interim Director, Nations Report

6.1 The impact of savings from budgets across Nations, News and Content as announced recently was noted. The savings will inevitably impact the independent sector. The Director, Nations working with the Chief Content Officer has written to the independent producers with an online briefing session for the sector due in July.

6.2 A discussion took place about engagement regarding the BBC Charter and interest shown by stakeholders about the next phase of the Across the UK initiative and portrayal in video content.

6.3 It was noted that following the appointment of Rhodri Talfan Davies and Deputy Director-General, Rhuanedd Richards would continue as Director, Nations.

7. Audience Report

7.1 The Committee noted the Audience Report.

7.2 Looking ahead to next year, there is focus on continued success of the high impact strategy of co-commissions and developing strong returning brands for BBC Scotland.

8. Finance Report

8.1 The Finance report was noted by the Committee.

8.2 The Committee recognised the work undertaken by the finance team in recent months to undertake the work to bring the end-of-year figures.

9. AOB

9.1 No other business was raised.