

# Note of the Ofcom Board held on 13 November 2024

Members were welcomed to the 319th meeting of the Ofcom Board. In addition to Board members, Tamara Ingram (future non-executive Board member), Martin Ballantyne (General Counsel), Veronica Branton (Corporation Secretary), Francesca Carter (Head of Governance) and Sharon Malley (Governance Manager) attended throughout.

## Declaration of members' interests

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1. No new interests were declared.

## Minutes of the meetings held on 25 September 2024 and 16 October 2024 and matters arising

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2. The minutes of the Ofcom Board meetings held on 25 September 2024 and 16 October 2024 were approved as a correct record.
3. A summary of progress against action points was noted.

## Chair's report

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4. The Chair updated the Board on his activity in relation to the Board of Channel 4 and on internal Ofcom matters.
5. The Board noted the report.

## Chief Executive's report

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6. Melanie Dawes presented a paper on her activities, including her recent attendance at the International Institute of Communications' International Regulators Forum in Bangkok and subsequent visit to Singapore. She updated the Board on Ofcom publications due before the end of the year and the implications for Ofcom of the recent Government Budget.
7. The Board noted the paper.

## Three-Year Business Plan 2025-28

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8. The Board discussed a paper on Ofcom's Three-Year Business Plan 2025-28. It was noted that the next three years would focus on consolidation and the delivery of key set pieces in the regulated sectors.
9. The Board discussed the financial assumptions underpinning the plan, the risks and mitigations associated with it and refinements to bring out the positive case for regulation's role in stimulating growth and investment.

10. The Board approved the Three-Year Business Plan 2025-28.

## Plan of Work 2025/26 and approach to 2025/26 budget

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11. The Board discussed a paper on Ofcom's Plan of Work 2025/26 and the approach to the 2025/26 budget. It was noted that the consultation process would be similar to that adopted in previous years and would include stakeholder events in the nations. The final Plan of Work, including responses to consultation feedback, would be presented to the Board for approval ahead of publication in March. The Board noted the financial assumptions underpinning the proposed budget and that the Risk and Audit Committee had been consulted on this previously.

12. The Board noted that the proposals on resourcing were in response to both tightening budgets and the strategic shift from policy development to supervision and enforcement of new regimes. Ofcom had planned for this through the creation of supervision teams in January 2024 dedicated to building relationships with platforms which it was hoped would pay off in the supervision and enforcement phase.

13. The Board approved the paper.

## Public Service Media review

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14. The Board discussed a paper on Ofcom's Public Service Media review. It was noted that it would be the final review under the current linear regulatory regime, but this would change under new arrangements in the Media Act. The Board noted trends in online viewing, financial stability of public service broadcasters, the role PSBs should be playing in British broadcasting over the coming decade and Ofcom's proposed approach to the review.

15. The Board approved the paper.

## Northern Ireland – state of the nation

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16. The Board discussed a paper on Northern Ireland. It was noted that Ofcom was entering a new phase of stakeholder engagement following the restoration of devolved government at Stormont. The Board discussed Ofcom's work in Northern Ireland on online safety, connectivity and broadcasting.

17. The Board noted the paper.

## Telecoms Access Review

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18. The Board discussed a paper on the Telecoms Access Review 2026-31. The Board discussed the content of the review and its provisional findings.

19. The Board noted the paper.

## Telecoms Security Act – update and first report to Secretary of State

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20. The Board discussed a paper on Ofcom’s first report on the status of the Telecoms Security Act to the DSIT Secretary of State. The Board discussed the content of the report and the operation of the Telecoms Security Act regime including costs, security clearances and data sharing with Government and agencies.

21. The Board noted the paper.

## Advisory Committee on Misinformation and Disinformation

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22. The Board discussed a paper on the Advisory Committee on Misinformation and Disinformation, including the approach to the establishment of the committee and its membership.

23. The Board approved the paper.

## Appointment to the CCP/ACOD

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24. The Board approved the appointment of the Northern Ireland member to the Communications Consumer Panel/Advisory Committee for Older and Disabled People.

## Mid-year review 2024/25

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25. The Board noted the paper on the mid-year review and six-month update on One Ofcom objectives.

## Standing items

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26. The Board noted the following standing items:

- Non-executive member updates
- Monthly performance report
- Board work programme and publications schedule
- Minutes of the Communications Consumer Panel Communications Consumer Panel on 19 September 2024, Advisory Committee for Scotland on 26 September 2024, Content Board on 1 October 2024, Advisory Committee for Wales on 2 October 2024, Advisory Committee for England on 3 October 2024 and Advisory Committee for Northern Ireland on 10 October 2024.

## Any other business

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27. There was no other business.

## Date of the next meeting

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28. The next Board meeting would be held on 11 December 2024.