BBC

Meeting of the BBC Audit and Risk Committee

SUMMARY MINUTES

Thursday 18 June 2026
Broadcasting House, London

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Committee business
   a) Apologies and conflicts of interest
   b) Minutes and matters arising from 18 March Audit and Risk Committee
2. Year-end - audit and assurance
   a) Accounting matters and legally privileged briefing on contingent liabilities
   b) Annual review of fraud risk
   c) Internal audit assurance of ARA data assertions
   d) Internal Audit Regularity and Propriety Audit
   e) Internal audit annual report
3. Annual Report and Accounts - for recommendation to the Board
   a) ARA overview
   b) Sustainability disclosures
   c) ARC report
   d) Risk report
   e) Going concern and viability statements
   f) Financial statements
4. NAO Audit completion report on the 2025/26 financial statements audit and LF trust statement
5. Licence Fee Trust statement - for approval
6. For approval:
   a) BBC Group modern slavery statement 2025/26
   b) DCMS assurance letter
   c) Updated Operational Separation Statement and Consolidated Group Trading Manual
   d) Internal Audit - Fair Trading Assurance Opinion
7. AOB and private session

ATTENDANCE

Members:

- Chris Jones — Non-executive director (Chair)
- Michael Plaut — Non-executive director

Board members present:

- Samir Shah — Chairman (item 3a,b)
- Matt Brittin — Director-General
- Leigh Tavaziva — Group Chief Operating Officer
- Bérangère Michel — Group Chief Financial Officer

With:

- Balram Veliath — Director, QRA
- Claire Rollo — National Audit Office
- Greg Wilson — National Audit Office
- Chris Sandford — Company Secretary
- Holly King — Group Financial Controller (2-6)
- Jon Penny — Group FD, Commercial (2-4)
- Nick Wilcox — Director, Litigation (item 2a)
- Peter Tansley — Director, Internal Audit (2,3,6d)
- Shirley Cameron — Director, Revenue Management (item 5)
- Chris Rowsell — Controller, Regulation (6c,d)

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE SUMMARY MINUTES – 18 June 2026

1. Minutes and matters arising from the 18 March Audit and Risk Committee

1.1 The minutes were approved. Matters arising were noted, including the agreement that analysis and reporting on B&H case trends would be considered at the Remuneration and People Committee on an annual basis.

2. Year-end – audit and assurance

a) Accounting matters

2.1 The Committee reviewed an update on key accounting estimates and judgements in the accounts. It was noted that the process this year had been mixed, with positive progress on the Commercial side. Effort was still needed to address manual systems and controls. Key judgements and estimates included sources of comfort on the pension valuation. The Committee noted the update.

b) Annual review of fraud risk

2.2 The Committee noted the annual review of the risk of misstatement due to fraud and error. The assessment of risk was that it was relatively low and this was supported by the NAO's assessment. Actions being taken to improve processes were noted.

c) Internal audit assurance of ARA data assertions

2.3 The audit of Annual Report data assertions was noted with a very high coverage percentage.

d) Internal Audit Regularity and Propriety Audit

2.4 The Committee reviewed the annual regularity and propriety review, noting there were no material issues identified in the review.

e) Internal audit annual report

2.5 The Internal Audit annual report was noted. The report was based on overall findings and themes from audits across the year, which had been selected on a risk basis, and the Committee noted the overall IA assessment of the BBC control environment. It was agreed that the Committee would continue to maintain focus on management completion of actions and progress in delivering actions on time.

3. Annual Report and Accounts

a) ARA overview

3.1 The Committee were given an overview of the Annual Report and Accounts as a whole and agreed that the document was fair, balanced and understandable subject to the addition of further references to financial challenge, as agreed in the discussion.

3.2 The Committee also received a confidential and legally privileged briefing on the accounting treatment for the ongoing legal case by the President of the United States relating to the editing of an episode of Panorama.

b) Going concern and viability statements

3.3 The Committee reviewed the management assessment of going concern, along with the associated statement for the Annual Report. On the basis of the analysis presented, the Committee supported the assessment of going concern.

3.4 It was noted that the assessment of viability was more challenging given the nature and timing of the Charter Review. The viability assessment analysis and estimates were discussed, noting that modelling had been done on the basis of the Board's approved three-year plan. The Committee supported the assessment of viability on the basis of the analysis provided and the assumptions disclosed, and subject to changes agreed in the discussion.

c) Sustainability disclosures

3.5 The Committee discussed the draft sustainability disclosures. Subject to comments raised in the discussion, the draft was approved.

d) ARC report

3.6 The Committee approved the ARC report, subject to a proposed factual addition for clarity on fair trading assurance.

e) Risk report

3.7 The Committee reviewed and approved the Risk report, noting simplification and improvement of the section. It was also noted that next year the report would include the Board's controls declaration.

f) Financial statements

3.8 The Committee noted the draft financial statements.

4. NAO Audit completion report on the 2025/26 audit and LF trust statement

4.1 The Committee discussed the NAO's audit completion report, noting the latest status on completion of the work and an updated overview of consolidated misstatements. The work on key risks was substantively complete and there had been positive work between teams to look at areas where controls could be improved in future.

4.2 The Committee noted the findings set out in the report, including the BBC Group extended auditor's report, Trust Statement audit certificate, draft letters of representation and draft assurance opinion on pay disclosures. The adequacy of the going concern disclosures was agreed. The Committee also confirmed there were no known risks of residual material misstatement from fraud or error in the accounts and agreed that the unadjusted misstatements set out did not need to be corrected as they were not material individually or in aggregate.

4.3 On the basis of this, and the discussions above, the Committee agreed to recommend the Annual Report and Accounts to the Board for signature, subject to the Chair of the Committee reviewing any final changes made to the document.

5. Licence Fee Trust statement

5.1 The Committee reviewed the final draft Trust Statement report and the NAO's section 2 report and opinion. The BBC's report was approved. The NAO report was being finalised in discussion with BBC management on the positioning of the narrative. The Committee Chair would be sighted on any final changes following discussions offline. The audit of the statement was largely complete with a clear opinion expected.

6. For approval

a) BBC Group modern slavery statement 2025/26

6.1 The statement was approved for signature and publication, with the Committee welcoming the work done to embed best practice and monitoring in the business.

b) DCMS assurance letter

6.2 The draft annual assurance letter was approved for submission to the DCMS.

c) Updated Operational Separation Statement and Consolidated Group Trading Manual

6.3 The Committee discussed the trading and separation documents required for publication or submission to Ofcom under their rules. The Committee approved the updated Operational Separation Statement for publication and the report on conflicts of interest for submission to Ofcom. Responsibility to finalise and submit the Consolidated Group Trading Manual was delegated to the Controller, Regulation.

d) Internal Audit - Fair Trading Assurance Opinion

6.4 The assurance opinion on fair trading, now performed by the Internal Audit team, was noted. Reference to publication of the assurance opinion would be added to the Committee's report in the Annual Report. The form of the final publication of the opinion was delegated to the Committee Chair, in discussion with the Audit and Regulation teams.

7. AOB

7.1 The Committee thanked Greg Wilson from the NAO for his many years of work on the BBC Commercial audit.