

9 April 2008

Andy Burnham reappoints Professor Richard Tait to the BBC Trust.

Andy Burnham, the Culture Secretary, today announced that Professor Richard Tait has been reappointed to the BBC Trust for a period of 2 years from 1 August.

Biographical Info

Richard Tait is Professor of Journalism and Director of the Centre for Journalism Studies at Cardiff University, a position he has held since July 2003, formerly ITN Editor-in-Chief (1995-2002) and Editor of Channel Four News (1987 - 1995). He oversaw the launch of ITN's 24 hour news channel and the renewal of long-term contracts with Channel 4 and ITV. He worked for BBC Television where his most notable credits were as editor of Newsnight and The Money Programme. Professor Tait is a UK Board member and Fellow of the International Press Institute, a Patron and Fellow of the Society of Editors, a Fellow of the Royal Television Society, a Trustee of the John Schofield Memorial Trust and Vice-President of the International News Safety Institute

Background

1. The BBC Trust is responsible for representing the interests of licence fee payers. It applies the principle of public value in holding to account the Executive Board, which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the BBC. The Trust also ensures that the BBC's activities are not anti-competitive and are consistent with a vibrant and dynamic broadcasting market. The new 10-year BBC Charter was sealed on 19 July 2006. As part of the Charter Review, which saw an unprecedented level of public involvement in determining the future of the BBC, the then Secretary of State decided to overhaul the BBC's governance system.
2. The post is remunerated at a level of £35,230
3. This re-appointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Professor Tait has not been involved in any political activity in the past 5 years.