

CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BBC GOVERNORS

I spoke to Home Office Press Office about the attached correspondence. Home Office only has an advisory role on this appointment which formal is made by The Queen on the PM's recommendation.

Once Sir Michael Swann's appointment as Provost of Oriel College, Oxford is announced this afternoon, we can merely confirm that he is giving up the Chairmanship of the Board of Governors from July 1980.

Originally Sir Michael Swann was reappointed as Governor and Chairman of the BBC from 1 August 1979 to 31 December 1980 (see press notice of 26 June). So he will be giving up the Chairmanship of the Board of Governors a few months earlier than anticipated. However, his move is being made with the consent of The Queen and the PM.

CA



MR. INGHAM

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 October, 1960

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 23 October to Clive Whitmore about the Chairmanship of the BBC Governors. She accepts Sir Michael Swann's wish to give up the post at the end of July next year, and she is content that this should be made known on Thursday, 25 October.

I informed the Palace that this news is to be announced on Thursday afternoon, and they have no objection. Our Press Offices will need to be in touch about the response to enquiries following the announcement from Oriel, but I understand that no formal announcement on the Government's part will be required.

M. A. PATTISON

*J. A. Chilcot,
Home Office.*

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

PRIME MINISTER.

Content that Sir M Swann's mid-1980
departure should be announced on Thurs



HOME OFFICE

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

23 October 1979

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APPOINTMENTS - IN CONFIDENCE

Yours

Dear Clive

CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BBC GOVERNORS

Sir Michael Swann has told the Home Secretary that he has been invited to become Provost of Oriel College, Oxford from 1 October 1980, and he would accordingly like to give up the chairmanship of the BBC Board of Governors from the end of July 1980.

When Sir Michael Swann agreed to stay on as Chairman until the end of 1980, he did so on the basis of an understanding with the Home Secretary that he would be free to leave earlier to take up some suitable offer provided he gave at least six months' notice.

Because of the risk of leakage of the news from Oxford, Sir Michael Swann is concerned that the news should emerge in a controlled way and would accordingly like to tell the Board of Governors at their meeting this Thursday morning, 25 October, and follow this up by telling senior staff in the BBC on Thursday afternoon with an accompanying announcement from Oriel.

The Home Secretary believes it is right to allow Sir Michael Swann to take up this opportunity on the basis of the understanding he reached earlier, and for it to be announced very soon rather than risk leakage and speculation. If the Prime Minister is content, you may wish to let the Palace know informally, since the appointment is made by The Queen on the Prime Minister's recommendation. It would be most helpful if we were able to let Sir Michael Swann know in the course of tomorrow.

*The Queen
is aware
of it.*

*Yours,
John*

J. A. CHILCOT

Clive Whitmore, Esq.