



Department
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Our Ref: 275188/dm/30

Rt Hon Fiona MacTaggart MP
[REDACTED]

26 November 2015

Dear Fiona,

Thank you for your letter of 16 November, on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] about the future of the BBC.

Thank you for making me aware of [REDACTED] concerns about the future of the BBC. The BBC's Royal Charter is the constitutional basis for the BBC, setting out its public purposes, guaranteeing its independence, and outlining the relative duties of the Trust and the Executive Board. The current Royal Charter came into effect on 1 January 2007 and is due to expire on 31 December 2016. The Government is undertaking a review of the BBC's Royal Charter. This process provides the opportunity to consider how the BBC has performed over the past ten years, what the BBC's strategic direction should be for the coming period and to look broadly at the BBC's overarching purpose, services, funding and governance. It is right that we should ask some difficult questions about the BBC's role in providing quality programming for the consumer, and we want to hear what members of the public think.

The Charter Review process gives the opportunity to review the BBC's service and the overarching public purposes it is required to deliver. And it is right, given the wide-reaching changes to media over the last 10 years, that we should ask some forthright questions about how the BBC operates and how it is funded. Over the next year we will take the views of the industry and the public on what the BBC should and should not do. Decisions about BBC funding, including the funding model and the level of the licence fee pending considerations of scale and scope, are also a matter which will be taken through the open and consultative process of Charter Review.

The consultation closed on 8 October. I am confident that the responses we are receiving which have been in excess of 190,000, will help to inform the process of the BBC Charter Review. [REDACTED] may be interested to know that additionally, the BBC Trust are running a series of public engagement events across the country. Further details, including how



to register to attend, are available here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/bbctrust/entries/6670fe8e-7d3b-465d-8cb9-a24aa4c1d22b>.

I hope that this is helpful.

Yours ever
John

The Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport