

14 July 2014

Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP OBE, Secretary of State for Culture,  
Media & Sport  
Department for Culture, Media & Sport  
100 Parliament Street  
London  
SW1A 2BQ  
Rt Hon Jesse Norman MP, Chair, Culture, Media & Sport Select  
Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Subject: BBC

Dear Mr Whittingdale and Mr Norman,

I believe that a strong, independent BBC serves the nation best. I urge you not to sell off chunks of the BBC. Don't commercialise it or force it to be a subscription service.

In the news, I hear that some politicians think the BBC's scope is too broad, that it chases ratings.

- I don't begrudge people who enjoy *Strictly Come Dancing*. I don't watch it, but I recognise that it has a unifying effect on the country. Rather like the royal family, which doesn't seem to be under threat.
- Without the BBC, you would never have had *Monty Python's Flying Circus* or *Civilisation* – two programmes that are at the opposite ends of the spectrum, but both of which have lasting impact on British and worldwide culture.

We will lose so much if the BBC is marginalised.

Will you please tell me how my views will be taken into account?

Sincerely,

Jean Prince