



INQUIRY:

“THE PUBLIC & THE BBC; WHAT ROLE IN OVERSIGHT & GOVERNANCE?”

Scope of “The public and the BBC; What Role in Oversight & Governance” Inquiry?

This Inquiry is to look at:

1. How the BBC’s licence fee payers and users are able to engage with the BBC and hold the BBC to account.
2. Ways that the BBC’s licence fee payers can have direct involvement and engagement with the BBC in the future.

What is the purpose of the Inquiry?

To see if there is a need to give more answerability to licence fee payers.

If yes can you see any possible ways in which this might be done? Also to look at the effect of Sir David Clementi’s report on governance if actioned.

Why is this Inquiry needed now?

Sir David Clementi suggests that the BBC should be run by a board of 13 people. 7 would be the Director General and other staff Executives. He then says there should be 6 Non Executive Directors including the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Sir David Clementi’s recent report into the future governance of the BBC has led to much worry about the appointments of Non-Executive Directors of a unitary board suggested for the BBC and of key regulators for the BBC at Ofcom.

Should these appointments be made by Non Executive appointments?

! Should they be made by the Public Appointments process?
There is a very real risk that the BBC may become more of a 'state broadcaster' and further interfered with by Government and changing from being the great independent national broadcaster we have had.

! There has been no mention from the Department of Culture, Media & Sport of the audiences and service users of the BBC having involvement in its governance.

Where is the direct involvement and real influence of the licence fee payers, audiences and service users?

Who can they hold to account? How can they hold appointees and the BBC to account?

How far should they have direct involvement and

! NOW is the time to act on these issues and have them heard by Government.

What is the timescale?

The White Paper on the BBC's future is due to be published "by the summer" [now expected soon after 5 May].

We want to let the Government know about ways in which the licence fee payer, also known as the stakeholder, can engage directly and effectively with the BBC.

We must report by the beginning of June 2016 when we will publish our findings.

How is the Inquiry gathering its material?

We invite contributions and accept submissions from individual licence fee payers, members of the BBC's audiences and users of its services and from media, academic and civil organisations. We have called for spoken evidence from key people and organisations with specific expertise or experience.

How can I make a submission to this Inquiry?

Please send your submission as either a Word or pdf document
Email to: inquiry@saveourbbc.net or
by post to: Save Our BBC, LIS House, Main Road, Woodham
Ferrers, Essex, CM8 8RP by
no later than 23:59 on Thursday 5 May 2016.

Who is the contact for this Inquiry?

The Project Manager is Peter Blackman, Strategic Director, Save Our BBC.

The Academic Lead is Richard Sambrook, Professor of Journalism & Director of the Centre for Journalism at Cardiff University.

The Terms of Reference for this Inquiry are:

“An independent Inquiry to Examine ways in which Television Licence Fee Payers and the BBC's audiences and service users could and/or should engage directly with the BBC to provide clear two way accountability and responsibility.

To report by end May 2016 to inform the Government's forthcoming White Paper.

Written and spoken evidence to be received by Thursday 5 May 2016.

Context:

- At present all 'representatives' of the Licence Fee payers are appointed in their personal capacities; there is no direct accountable democratic link or responsibility
- Proposed revised governance arrangements do not address this
- In a corporation or membership organisation the paying stakeholders elect their representatives and hold them to account
- Parliamentary reporting and regulatory oversight are not the answers to direct stakeholder accountability
- Views and evidence are invited as to: How can the licence fee payers, audiences and service users of the BBC be properly engaged in this day and age?

This is a joint inquiry, promoted and produced by Save Our BBC with support from Cardiff University.”

Respondents are asked to address the following questions:

 Q1: Are you satisfied with the present governance of the BBC under the 2007 Charter as it relates to the accountability of the BBC and BBC Trust to licence fee payers? Please provide reasons.

 Q2: Are you satisfied with the governance arrangements suggested for the future of the BBC under a new Charter from 2017 by Sir David Clementi as they relate to the accountability of the BBC and Ofcom to licence fee payers? Please provide reasons.



Q3: Do you have any alternative suggestions as to how the BBC, its governors and regulators might be made accountable to licence fee payers? Please provide reasons and mechanisms.

Any other relevant comments respondents care to make will be appreciated.

-oo0oo-

For further information and queries please contact:

Peter Blackman
Strategic Director
Save Our BBC CIC
Voicemail: 01245 322079
peterblackman@saveourbbc.net
www.saveourbbc.net