



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Secretary of State for Culture, Media
and Sport
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

www.gov.uk/dcms
enquiries@culture.gov.uk

Our Ref: 275394/dm/3

Rt Hon George Howarth MP
jonathan.woods@parliament.uk

26 November 2015

Dear George,

Thank you for your email of 18 November, on behalf of a number of your constituents about BBC funding and the Charter Review.

Thank you for making me aware of your constituents' 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 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 15 months we will take the views of the industry and the public on what the BBC should and shouldn't 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. Your constituents 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.

Y
Lum ever
John

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