



Department for Culture, Media & Sport

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Professor Lee Edwards
Chair, Media Reform Coalition

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Dr Tom Chivers
Vice-Chair, Media Reform Coalition
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Dear Prof Edwards and Dr Chivers,

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 November to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP, on behalf of yourselves and your co-signatories, regarding your proposals for public engagement in the Charter Review (CR) process and for providing your input to this very important topic. I am responding as Minister for Media and I apologise about the delay in you receiving your response.

First and foremost, I would like to assure you that the government believes that public service broadcasting, and the BBC in particular, are vital British assets that contribute to our national life, and help to shape and define our nation. The BBC stands apart in delivering trusted news and high-quality programming for audiences across the UK, and is a national institution that belongs to us all. Nevertheless, we recognise the challenges that the corporation is facing, including many of those you set out in your letter.

As you are aware, the government launched the CR last year. It provides a hugely important opportunity for us to consider a range of issues in order to set the BBC up so that it can thrive for decades to come. Including how the BBC can be accountable to the public and those who fund it.

It is the duty of the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport to consult the public as part of the CR process. She is committed to undertaking open and constructive engagement with the public. As part of this process, we launched a public consultation to ask people from different communities across the UK to be part of the conversation on the future of the BBC. The consultation launched on 16 December 2025 and will run until 10 March. Anyone can respond to this consultation and we will carefully consider all responses. Alongside the public consultation, we intend to undertake research that will involve the general public, ensuring we engage substantively with a broad range of people who reflect the rich diversity of the whole country.

Regarding your suggestion that the BBC broadcasts public engagement for the CR on its own platforms, as it is operationally and editorially independent of the government, decisions of that nature would be for the BBC to make itself. Of course, the BBC is undertaking its own extensive public engagement, such as the account holder survey that concluded earlier in the year. We intend to work collaboratively with the BBC throughout CR, and will therefore seek to understand the information and perspectives they are hearing from the public, so that we can consider that additional data as we progress through the process.

We would welcome your further views on these topics once the consultation has launched and officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will be in touch to arrange a meeting. I would be grateful if you would share a copy of this letter with your co-signatories.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP
Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts

