

From the Chairman  
Rona Fairhead CBE

Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP  
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport  
Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
Fourth Floor, 100 Parliament Street  
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Dear John

I know from the conversations we have had since your appointment as Secretary of State that you are committed to an open and transparent process for the BBC's Charter Review. You have also said that you want to engage the public in that debate.

To that end, we at the Trust have conducted a great deal of research and consultation to feed into that process, involving over 50,000 members of the public, and we have published all of the results. The results are clear - although the public expects the BBC to improve in a number of areas, their overall message is one of extraordinary support for the mission, purpose and shape of the BBC.

Proper consideration of this information – and the information collected from the Government's own consultation - will ensure that the views of licence fee payers are central to the decisions that you and the Government take about the future of the BBC.

I was very concerned, therefore, to see it suggested in the press – not attributed to you - that some of the 190,000 responses to your consultation might be ignored. I am sure you will agree that the volume of responses to both our consultations shows the strength of interest and feeling that there is about the future of the BBC.

A number of people have raised with me their concerns that the views of the British public will not be taken into account. I realise that it can be helpful to carry out additional research alongside consultations, as we did when we first launched our public consultation. However, I would be grateful for confirmation that your department will consider fairly all the responses from all the consultations alongside the results of any other research work.

Yours ever,



Rona Fairhead  
Chairman