

DCMS

RAYMOND ANGEL

Rt. Hon. John L. Prescott, MP
HOUSE OF COMMONS
Westminster
LONDON SW1 0AA

9 March 2004

Dear Deputy Prime Minister

Funding the BBC – Regionalisation

With the current discussion as to how to fund public service broadcasting, I consider the best option, having done away with the present TV Licence system, would be through local taxation based on property value.

I have written to the Acting Director General of the BBC – copy attached.

Given that your office is promoting regionalisation, it would seem that the BBC, through its various local networks and local broadcasting output, could usefully facilitate local interest in regional democracy.

I am sure that your office will be looking closely at this issue.

Yours sincerely

R Angel

RAYMOND ANGEL

The Acting Director General
BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
Broadcasting House
London W1A 1AA

9 March 2004

Dear Sir

The Independence and Funding of Public Service Broadcasting

At the outset, in context with current discussions on the future of the BBC, I share the view that the Corporation performs an excellent function of providing public service and entertainment broadcasting.

The opportunities for the broadcasting media seem limitless. The multitude of Channels, each seeking audience has led, in many cases to rubbish output. To some extent the BBC has fallen into this trap, because in part it has tried to be all things to undefined audiences.

I could discuss at length about public service broadcasting. However, I will confine my present comments to funding the BBC as a public service broadcaster.

I take the view that the BBC should be funded in such a fashion that it retains its broadcasting independence. This would be most effectively achieved through local taxation against property value – including commercial properties.

The present Council and Business Tax collection system is already in place. And, as with the Police, Fire Services, etc., Public Broadcasting Service, tax collections could be efficiently made and remitted to the BBC on a Regional basis – a matter for the Deputy Prime Minister's office to consider. It would then be for the BBC management, UK wise, to apportion the total funding of say £3bn per year from 2006.

Yours faithfully

cc Deputy Prime Minister's Office
Department of Culture, Media & Sports