



EM Media
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30th March 2004

BBC Charter Review Consultation
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2 – 4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Colleague

BBC Charter Review - response to the consultation paper

On behalf of EM Media the regional screen agency for England's East Midlands may I say how delighted we are to have this opportunity to comment formally as part of the Charter Review process. We welcome the approach to encouraging dialogue and to hearing a range of views at this key point in the BBC's history. The key issues we would wish to raise are as follows:

- We positively support the BBC making a real commitment to regional independent production - both for regional and national audiences and in the BBC fulfilling the minimum quotas for independent production which it has failed to meet in recent years;
- The BBC making its commitment to the development of talent and opportunity across all communities real by for example:
 - Seeing the BBC follow up their location of the BBC Asian Network in Leicester by locating other networks outside of London. Currently this is the only BBC network based outside of London.
 - For the BBC to adopt the terms of trade agreed between Channel 4 and PACT following the Communications Act requirements, regarding secondary rights being retained by independent production companies;
- The BBC making real a commitment to contributing to the development of the UK film industry as per the DCMS select committee report from last year - that Public Sector Broadcasters have a responsibility to supporting the development of British film. The key question is how can the BBC best help both in terms of the development of talent and production and in the exhibition of British and non-Hollywood films. Where and how can British audiences get to see British and world cinema? BBC4 is the only outlet;
- For the BBC to put in place outline procurement processes and codes of practice for independent digital media production using the PACT terms of trade relating to broadcast;

- For the BBC to resolve issues of governance, where the separation of roles is unclear; not referring to Hutton, but to issues around balance of programming and means of production - for example if quotas aren't met, then what are the sanctions?
- For the BBC to look at the make up of its governing body, to ensure there are a range of voices and perspectives represented and regularly heard.

Once again we appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this crucial debate and look forward to the outcome of the Review.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Williams
Head of Operations
EM Media