

Hackney Downs

Branch Labour Party

c/o 4 Heyworth Road, London E5 8DR

Chair: Ian Kingston (07970 385 224)

Secretary: John Stewart (020 8985 0891)

April 3rd 2005

Michelle McCarthy
BBC Charter Review
Department of Culture, Media & Sport
2/4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH

Dear Michelle McCarthy,

Future of British Broadcasting Corporation

Thank you for your letter of 2nd March 2005 and for enclosing a copy of the Green Paper on the Review of the BBC's Royal Charter.

Our branch Labour Party would like to re-iterate the points made in our original letter to the Secretary of State and ask that they be considered as part of the government's consultation process on the Charter Review.

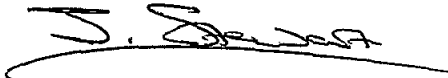
In summary, we would support the following measures:

- 1) We believe that the retention of the license fee is the best method of funding the BBC. We feel that this is the best way to ensure the BBC's continuing role as a keystone of cultural and political life in the UK.
- 2) We believe that the government should rule out any possibility of handing over parts of the BBC to commercial broadcasters. We are very concerned at the concentration of private media ownership within enormous media empires.
- 3) We believe that the BBC should not be subject to political interference by political parties (as seen during the US/UK attack on Iraq in 2003).
- 4) We believe that the government should reform the BBC Board of Governors to make it more democratic and accountable by including

elected representatives from the audience and from trade unions with members in the broadcasting industry.

We hope that our proposals will be considered by the government as part of its review.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Stewart", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Stewart
Branch Secretary