

**Independent Panel on Charter Review
Seminar: Informed Citizenship**

24 November 2004, DCMS, 9.00 – 12.30

AGENDA

- 9:00 **Introduction**
Chair's opening remarks
- 9:10 **Building "Democratic value" ...**
- The BBC's manifesto for Charter review, *Building Public Value* suggests that everything the Corporation does should add value in one or more of five key areas. *Building Public Value* identifies one of those areas as "Democratic value" It goes on to say that " the BBC supports civic life and national debate by providing trusted and impartial news and information that helps citizens make sense of the world and encourages them to engage with it."
- This session aims to get behind the words – what do we mean by "Democratic value"? How can public service broadcasting, and the BBC contribute?
- What does the BBC do to support civic life and national debate? Should it do more, less, or the same? How successful has it been, and how can future success be determined? How can it reach across the full range of society, including young people etc?
- 10:15 Coffee
- 10:30 **...over the airwaves...**
- This session aims to explore how the BBC adds democratic value through its "direct" services – principally the news and current affairs programmes it delivers through television and radio services and online content. It also provides an opportunity to examine the key issue of accuracy, impartiality and balance in news coverage – how do we ensure that the BBC remains a trusted provider of information and news? To what extent should the BBC set a "gold standard"? And what impact might changing demands for news provision – e.g. rolling 24 hour news – have?
- 11:30 Comfort Break
- 11:40 **...and beyond**
- The BBC does much more than just broadcast programmes, however. And *Building Public Value* makes a case for its wider role to continue. For example, it sets out a mission to "create opportunities, especially at local and regional levels, for people to become more active citizens; encourage more open debate and public participation on radio and new media; build on the BBC's successful Open Centres and learning buses to engage people in their local communities"
- This session looks at the BBC's recent achievements – using its submission to Charter review as a starting point – and provides an opportunity to debate how we would like the BBC to contribute in the future.
- Questions from the Floor
- 12:30 Buffet Lunch