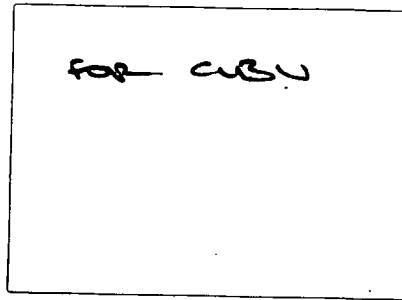


The Rt.Hon.Tessa Jowell. MP.
Minister for Culture Media and Sport,
2-4 Cockspur Street,
London SW1Y 5HD.

Telephone:-0207 211 6200



Gerald W. Gannaway

The Rt.Hon.Tessa Jowell. MP.

9th April 2006

Dear Minister,

Further to your invitation for public comment on the future BBC 'White Paper and draft Charter Agreement' with reference to the BBC Charter Review Team. Please find attached my own views on the BBC licence fee-as published in the Bristol Evening Post on the 10th February 2006.

Not that I expect nose-in-the-trough MPs like you to take any serious interest or show genuine sympathy of the plight and ability to pay for a TV licence position of the many people living at a subsistence level in our society, while you and your fellow greedy MPs jack-up your own pay-pensions and perks by hundreds of pounds a week from hard-pressed UK taxpayers.funding.

Yours sincerely,

Gerald Gannaway.

Director General of Culture Media and Sport	
11 APR 2006	
12/05/06	(T-R)
OPD CBU	40780

OPEN LINES

A chance to have your say

We welcome your letters but, please, be as concise as possible. We reserve the right to edit any letters and will only withhold a writer's name and address if there are compelling reasons. You can e-mail us at epletters@bepp.co.uk; write to us at Open Lines, Evening Post, Temple Way, Bristol, BS39 7HD; or telephone your letters to our hotline numbers 0117 934 3296/7/8 between 8.30am and 8pm, Monday to Friday

EVENING POST

Issue No. 22,488

COMMENT

The paper all Bristol asked for and helped to create

Help us make sure our ship is the winner

IF ever there was a suitable attraction to win the Gulbenkian Prize, it is the ss Great Britain.

The prize is not particularly well-known in Bristol. But it is recognised as the premier award for UK museums and galleries.

And the very fact that the ss Great Britain is now such a wonderful example of a museum that is a real experience for visitors means it should be a strong contender for the prize.

The £100,000 that goes to the winner may not seem in itself to be that significant. After all, the ship's improved facilities, with its now standing proudly in the "glass sea" that surrounds it, became possible following an £8.8 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a further £2.6 million being raised by supporters and members.

But a further £100,000 could indeed

TV licence 'tax' is too much for those on low income

WERE I one of the 5,400 so-called TV licence dodgers and also a non-taxpayer having to survive on, say, the income of a Jobseeker's Allowance, I would resent being branded a criminal by TV licensing spokeswoman Michelle Hughes ("Licence evaders risk a criminal conviction", *Post*, February 1).

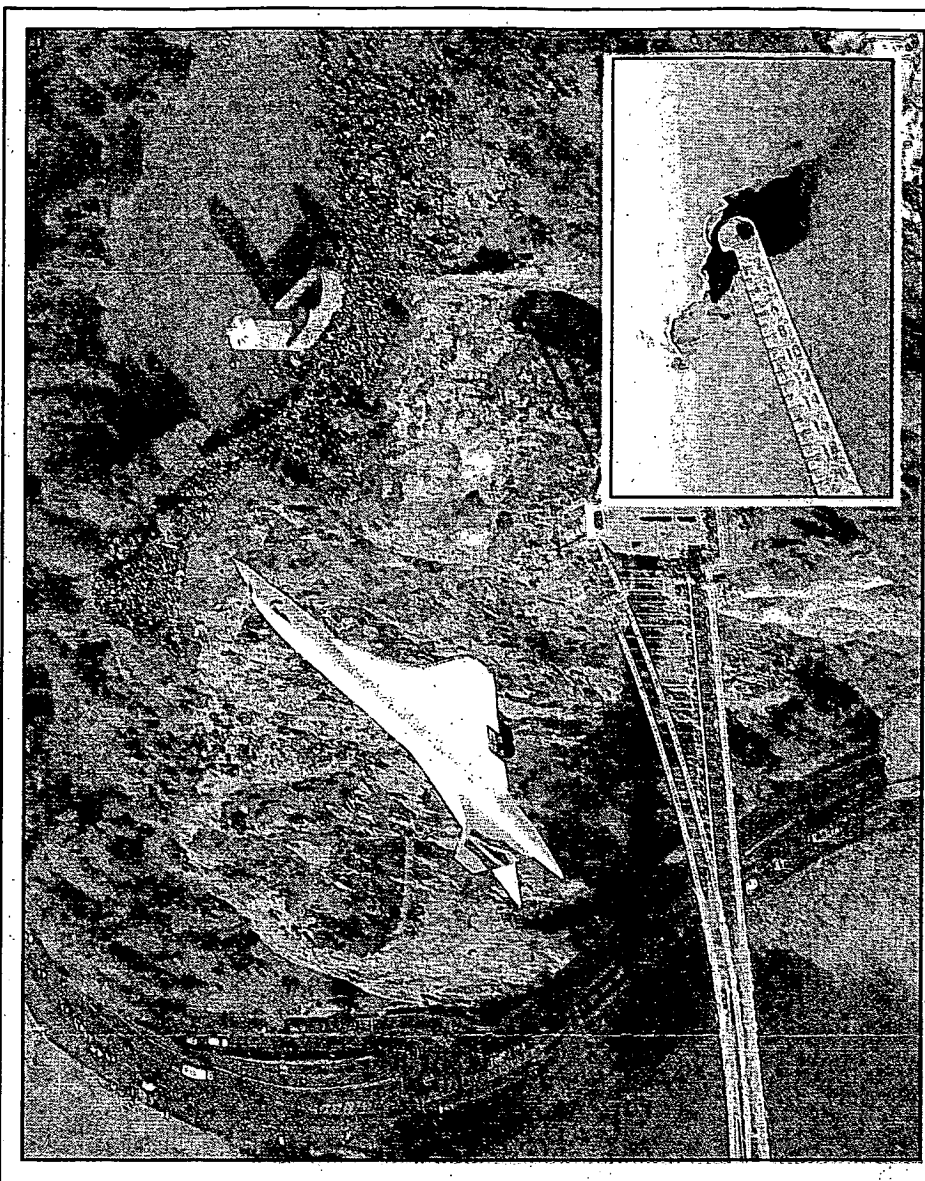
Now that the Government has officially declared the TV licence fee a "tax", I see no reason why people on low income and outside the normal income tax band should have to buy a licence, particularly if they only want to have a television receiver in the home to watch pay-per-view programmes with no connection to the BBC.

This TV licence fee racket needs looking into now, it has at last "come out" as the tax that dare not speak its name - and MPs need to consider the ability to pay situation of this tax charge for people on low income, which for many can be more than two weeks' benefit income.

But don't hold your breath for action on this matter from our MPs while many of them are queuing up to grab generous guest appearance fees from the Beeb.

Gerald Gannaway
Knowle Park.

Pilots cause misery wherever they fly



Under threat: it was a proud day for the city when Concorde returned to Filton in November 2003, but since then a hole has appeared on one of the wings (inset) after being left exposed to the elements.