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P I N E W O O D

S H E P P E R T O N

Department for Culture, Media and Sport	
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26 April 2006

BBC Charter Review Consultation
Department of Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
LONDON
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Sir

A PUBLIC SERVICE FOR ALL : THE BBC IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Michael Grade, in addition to being Chairman of the BBC, is also Chairman of Pinewood Shepperton plc. The comments contained in this letter have not been discussed with or read by Mr. Grade.

Since the 1930s, Pinewood and Shepperton studios have accommodated some of the most spectacular film moments, memorable stars and ambitious sets. Batman, Lara Croft, Harry Potter, James Bond, Daleks and Superman have all walked its corridors, while its stages and back-lots have become ice palaces, Cambodian tombs, space ships, Paris opera sets - in fact anywhere in the world and absolutely anything that can be dreamed up from the imaginations of directors, can be recreated at Pinewood Shepperton plc. Together the studios have a combined credit list of almost 1500 movies in 70 years. Today the facilities at Pinewood Shepperton plc are ranked amongst the best in Europe and we are committed to investing in one studio for the future.

We have read the White Paper, 'A Public Service for All: The BBC in the Digital Age' with interest and would like to make the following comments:

We welcome:

- the establishment of the Trust and hope it will 'police' the BBC more effectively than the Board of Governors do presently. For example the BBC has failed twice in three years to meet its 25% quota of production going to independent producers, the Governors should have imposed sanctions for not meeting its target;
- the decision to accept the recommendation of the House of Commons Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport, that the BBC should put together a film investment strategy to ensure that the best UK films are shown to a wider television audience;
- the six new public purposes for the BBC especially 'stimulating creativity and cultural excellence - including film'; and
- the requirement in the Charter and Agreement for the BBC Trust to have a film strategy and invest in new films.

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In order to effectively further those aims we would like to see that the BBC could only invest in films which meet the DCMS Cultural Test for British films as set out in the Films (Definition of "British Film") Order 2006. This will build upon the Government objective of creating a sustainable UK film industry.

Many thanks for your consideration of this letter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ivan Dunleavy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Ivan Dunleavy