
Subject: Butlin, Chris A

As one who commented on the initial consultation I am still greatly concerned at such an investment going through one organisation. Back in the early 1980s I worked on a consultative group looking at the future of computers in schools - its recommendations being for a computer which would find a large market (not just UK) and so be likely to attract massive software development. As a result we suggested going for the then pc but making a user-friendly front-end for it (today's Windows equivalent). As we know the BBC computer became the norm, sold poorly outside the UK and had little software developed for it. Might we not see something similar with this venture or might it not stifle developments to follow guidelines and standards that the BBC would set and that no one, at least in the UK, could avoid following. Innovation might well be curtailed as a result! It appears that an assumption has been made that only the BBC can innovate on this scale when I would see the work of very many organisations, small and large, as being more likely to bring forward things out of the norm as long as their work has not been stifled.

I was also rather unsure as to exactly what areas the BBC had said it was dealing with. It appears to not cover all. I suspect this as a means of saying that there is a lot more that others can do, but in reality I feel it might be leaving less economic ventures to others.

I am for a fair degree of diversity at a time when this area is being developed and would not like to see my tax payers money put effectively into one basket.

I declare an interest in that I do, with other commercial organisations (not the BBC) produce digital media.

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