



Tessa Jowell, MP
Secretary of State
Department of Culture, Media and Sport
2 – 4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH

Tuesday, 09 July 2002

Dear Secretary of State

BBC Digital Curriculum

I would like to take this opportunity to respond on behalf of Equity to the BBC's proposals for a licence fee funded digital curriculum service.

We note that this service will constitute a major investment for the BBC, and that the source of that investment will solely arise from the licence fee. Unsurprisingly, we are concerned that this may result in the unnecessary diversion of funds away from the BBC's core functions. If drama programming for example, was to compete for monies with this new service, if approved by yourself, it is likely to be given priority and we would want to see a guarantee from the BBC that investment in its core functions, such as the range and quality of programming, will be maintained.

Additionally, we note that under content categories (3.2), neither dance nor drama are included within non-core subjects. While we appreciate these would be impossible subjects to teach via the service, we would hope to see these subjects equally promoted as viable career options for children.

Otherwise we consider that these proposals are a wholly worthwhile development and agree that the service is an essential facet in the current educational environment.

Yours sincerely

Ian McGarry
General Secretary