

BLACKBURN LUCY

From: Peter Robinson [yu22@dial.pipex.com]
Sent: 27 July 2001 11:36
To: tessa.jowell@culture.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: BBC Radio 1 Urban digital service

Dear Ms Jowell:

I understand that you are conducting a period of consultation as to whether you should proceed to grant the BBC the right to begin broadcasting several new digital radio services, one of which is aimed at the Afro-Caribbean young audience and lovers of black music in general.

I run the leading independent record label releasing R&B and soul music in the UK, Dome Records. We are based in Hammersmith. Over the past five years we have developed the careers of exciting new British black music talent, notably Beverley Knight and Hil St Soul. Such music is not adequately catered for by the existing legitimate radio stations, which heavily focus on the mainstream, lowest common denominator.

The launch of a nationwide BBC Urban music station would help labels such as ours to invest more in the development of BRITISH artists in this music genre and give them a real chance of competing with the Americans, who currently dominate in R&B/soul music.

I urge you to consider favourably the granting to the BBC of a licence to launch this new digital service.

Yours Sincerely

PETER ROBINSON
Managing Director
Dome Records Ltd