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From Paul Corley
Managing Director

17 August 2001

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

Dear Ms Jowell

BBC's Plans for New Digital Channels

I would like to add GMTV's voice to the opposition to the BBC's plans to extend its digital offering in the area of children's programming.

GMTV is a children's broadcaster and producer between 06.00 and 09.30 at weekends on ITV. We are regularly the market leader in this segment.

We also broadcast a second channel, GMTV-2 on digital terrestrial and cable as a mainly pre-school programming channel. We have plans to extend and expand this as carriage grows.

I am concerned that the BBC's plans allow it an unfair advantage in this competitive sector.

We are also intrigued as to how the BBC can extend its hours in this way without seriously reducing the quality of its children's output on BBC-1 and BBC-2. Surely licence fee payers would prefer investment in its core programming rather than spreading its children's resources thinly over four channels.

The commercial sector is in a strong position to develop services for children but this will undoubtedly be compromised if the BBC is allowed to expand dramatically in this area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul Corley' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Corley
Managing Director