



K.A.V.A.L

Kashmiri, Association of Viewers & Listeners

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Mohammed Jamil
Chair
27/2/2001

Pablo Palao
Department of Culture And Heritage
Broadcasting Policy Division
4th floor 2/4 Cockspur Street
London

Dear Pablo,

This is a written submission concerning BBCs five new National Digital Radio services, with particular reference to The BBC Asian Network to The Secretary of State for Culture, Media And Sport.

We are the largest Viewers and Listeners Association Representing the British Kashmiri Community in the United Kingdom as well as raising issues concerning the Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities. These communities combined represent 60% of the South Asian Communities in the United Kingdom.

The BBC Asian Network has been broadcasting in the Midlands for about five years. The largest Asian community In the Midlands are The British Kashmiris [90% of the Pakistani community].

The BBC only provides a 3 hour programme for the Kashmiri community out of total programming of 133 hours.

When comparing language programming it is still 3 hours out 44 hours.
BBCs Community languages Provision when comparing communities.

Hindustani 15 hours
Gujarati 9 hours
Punjabi[sikh] 7 hours
Mirpuri 3 hours

The British Kashmiri Community is the largest in the Midlands, yet they only get a 3 hour programme in Mirpuri. when all the other communities which are smaller get 15 hours, 9 hours and 7 hours respectively.

The reason for this Mis-match is that Senior Management of the Asian Network are from the Indian Community, who speak Hindustani, Gujarati and Punjabi[Sikh].

We believe programming should be decided by the number of licence fee payers from the different communities, Not on the whim of Senior Management.

There are over 1 Million Kashmiris living in the United Kingdom [90% Pakistanis] The vast majority are licence fee payers. By providing inadequate programming for this Community, the BBC is daily breaking its commitment made to them in the statement of promises to Viewers and Listeners.

This is a great concern to our Association, as the BBC Asian Network expands Nationwide in the near future, this Bias will be reolocated Nationally.

KAVAL [Kashmiri Association of Viewers and Listeners] Formerly known as KAPLA [Kashmiri and Pakistani Listeners Association] has been actively Campaigning for adequate programming for the Kashmiri Community over the last Five Years.

The Association has had numerous meetings with the BBC Asian Network however very little has been done to expand the Kashmiri Programming whether Language programmes or programmes to cover the social and economic issues facing the community today.

As mentioned earlier, we have been talking to the BBC Asian Network since its Inception. Yet when the BBC decided to consult the Listeners in October 1999.

We were not consulted at all, [if we had been, we would have been happy to offer our services]

This was not done Once but Twice. Once when the investigation was for the opinion of the Listeners towards the station. Secondly the Consultation exercise for Nationwide expansion.

We represent the licence fee payers, this proves BBCs contempt for the opinion of those licence fee payers. And also shows how badly planned, one sided and inept way the consultation exercises were carried out.

The consultation by BBC Asian Network in April/May 2000 was primarily on the internet. This was not conducive for the socially excluded communities [especially the Kashmiri and Bangladeshi] as majority are not connected to the Internet or have very little access to it.

these communities should be consulted at grassroots level.

To Summarize our Issues and Concerns:

Firstly before the Government Approves, the new Digital channel for the Asian Network. A condition should be added that BBC consults all the Asian Communities about the new service.

The Consultation is Independent of the BBC, and advertised in all the Asian Community language Newspapers.

Secondly Our Association would like a meeting with your department, so that we can make you aware of our concerns about the forthcoming expansion of the BBC Asian Network And dangers for the licence fee payers, in Value for money terms if its mishandled.

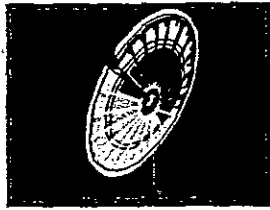
Awaiting your earliest reply

Yours truly

M. Jamil

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Enclosures: - MINUTES OF MEETING WITH BBC ASIAN NETWORK 24/7/2000.
- SCHEDULE OF BBC ASIAN NETWORK.



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Mohammed Jamil
Chair
23rd July 2001

Vanessa Brand
Head of Public Service Broadcasting Policy Branch
Department of culture media and Sport

Dear Vanessa,

Further to our letter concerning digital television radio services, you have our permission to make our comments public.
In addition if BBC also launches an Asian digital television service, our comments are equally valid for that service.

As mentioned in our letter earlier there are over one million Kashmiris living in the UK, and at the moment they are totally ignored by the BBC, even though they diligently pay their licence fee every year.

BBC should consult organisations like ours which has strong links in that community to make sure their voice is heard and they are not excluded, which is the case at present.

I am enclosing data about Kashmiri communities population which you will find useful, please feel free to make this information public.

Awaiting your earliest reply.

Yours Truly

M. Jamil

Enclosure: Kashmiri population data