

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF BBC ONLINE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

The reviewer shall:

- consider whether, in providing its online service known as BBC Online, the BBC is acting in accordance with the facts and assurances on the basis of which approval to proceed with the service was given;
- produce an assessment of the market impact of BBC Online;
- consider, in the context of the approaching review of the BBC's Charter, what the role of BBC Online might be within the BBC's overall service.
- have regard, in reaching conclusions, to:
 - (i) the BBC's own report on the performance of BBC Online and to any subsequent evidence provided by the Corporation;
 - (ii) views submitted by other organisations and individuals in response to the BBC's report or in response to the invitation to comment issued by the reviewer; and
 - (iii) any additional evidence which the reviewer considers it appropriate to commission;
- submit a report to the Secretary of State, in publishable form, by Spring 2004, setting out the conclusions of the review and, if appropriate, making any recommendations which the reviewer considers necessary to ensure that BBC Online is operated in accordance with the terms of the original approval.