



Department  
for Culture  
Media & Sport

Minister for Culture and the Digital  
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Rt Hon George Howarth MP  
[george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk)

21 March 2016

Dear George,

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of a number of your constituents about the future of the BBC. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

I believe that the BBC is a great national institution, which makes a valuable contribution to many people's lives as the nation's broadcaster. It is a maker of high quality content, reaching 97 per cent of the population on a weekly basis and many millions more overseas through the provision of its international services.

The BBC Charter Review is the process through which the Government can consider all aspects of the BBC. For example, decisions about BBC funding, including the funding model and the level of the licence fee, pending considerations of scale and scope, will be taken through the open and consultative process of Charter Review. This gives the opportunity to review the BBC's service and the overarching public purposes it is required to deliver. It is right, given the wide-reaching changes to media over the last ten years, that we should ask some forthright questions about how the BBC operates and how it is funded. Over the next year we will take the views of the industry and the public on what the BBC should and should not do.

The Government's BBC Charter Review Public Consultation closed on 8 October. The consultation set out 19 different questions. Over 190,000 people responded to the consultation which is the second largest response to any Government consultation.

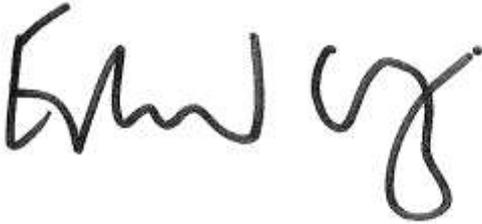
The Government takes the responses extremely seriously and, as you are aware, published a summary of the consultation responses on the 1 March. The results from the consultation, along with other evidence commissioned by the Department, will be used to inform the Government's policies for the BBC which will be published in a White Paper.

Your constituents may be interested to know that the BBC Trust also ran a series of public engagement seminars across the country in the autumn.



Further details, including how to view the seminars online, are available here:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/bbctrust/entries/6670fe8e-7d3b-465d-8cb9-a24aa4c1d22b>.

I hope that this is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Vaizey'.

**Ed Vaizey MP**  
**Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy**