

European Scrutiny Committee

House of Commons 14 Tothill Street London SW1H 9NB

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From: Sir William Cash MP

14 January 2015

Lord Hall of Birkenhead CBE
Director-General of the BBC
Broadcasting House
Portland Place
London
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Dear Lord Hall,

Thank you for your letter of 17 December 2014 in response to mine inviting you to give oral evidence to the European Scrutiny Committee for the third time. This matter has been raised in the House of Commons Liaison Committee and my Committee's request was fully supported.

In your letter you say that you are not using your position as a Member of the House of Lords to avoid scrutiny. With respect, this is exactly what it appears you are doing. But for that membership, this exchange of letters would normally lead to a formal summons for you to attend.

Please would you therefore treat this request for you to give oral evidence as you would a formal summons?

I fully appreciate that it will remain open to you when giving evidence to explain why you are not willing to answer questions on certain matters, but that will be on the public record and not confined to letters between us.

I am copying this letter to the Chairman of the BBC Trust, the Rt Hon Sir Alan Beith MP, Chair of the Liaison Committee, John Whittingdale MP, Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee and Lord Boswell, Chairman of the House of Lords European Union Committee.

Yours,

Bill Cash

CHAIRMAN