Lord Hall
Director-General
BBC
Broadcasting House
Portland Place
London W1A 1AA

9 March 2018

Dear Lord Hall,

BBC pay

Thank you for your response to our request for pay data. We will publish any relevant sections of the evidence alongside our next hearing on BBC Pay on 20 March.

That session will focus on the BBC’s use of personal service companies, as well as some further questions on equal pay. The first panel will feature Liz Kershaw and others with experience or observations on these issues. As a result, we would like to hold a subsequent panel on the same day giving BBC management the right to reply. In particular, it would be useful to hear from Jenny Henderson, Head of Global Mobility and Employment Tax, and Bob Shennan, Director of BBC Radio & Music.

I would like to make another important request relating to transparency. It would greatly assist our inquiry if you would remove the non-disclosure agreements which many staff (and former staff) are bound by. On the World At One on 30 January, you distanced yourself from the use of NDAs, saying:

In the first year of coming back to the BBC I abolished gagging orders. We will not—and let me make this absolutely clear—use confidentiality clauses on anything to do with employment and certainly on equality and employment. I think there may be a couple of cases way back where by mistake we put in a confidentiality clause, but let me just say clearly that is wrong, we will not use clauses to stop people discussing their pay or their agreement with the BBC.

Will you commit to revoking NDAs already in place?
I look forward to your response, which I would be grateful to receive by Friday 16 March so that it can inform the evidence session the following week.

DAMIAN COLLINS MP  
CHAIR, DCMS COMMITTEE