

From the Chairman
The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes CH

William Cash MP
Chairman
European Scrutiny Committee
7 Millbank
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3 March 2014

Dear Bill,

I write in response to your letter of 29 January, in which you invite me again to appear before the European Scrutiny Committee.

I think it important in reply to remind you of points which I have made in our earlier correspondence about the constitutional independence of the BBC, and to register my surprise at your repeated invitation in circumstances where BBC coverage is hardly a major component of your Committee's work and you have already heard evidence from BBC Executives.

But rather than perpetuate correspondence on this issue, I will agree to attend your Committee. I should repeat that, in line with the Trust's Charter role, I will not be a position to engage with your Committee on the detail of BBC operations or editorial decisions. Nor, to pick up a specific point in your latest letter, do I imagine that there will be much for me to add on the Trust's published conclusions on the Prebble review. In addition, I do not believe that it would be appropriate for me to appear before your Committee in advance of the European elections on 22 May.

I am copying this letter to the Rt Hon Sir Alan Beith MP, Chair of the Liaison Committee, to John Whittingdale MP, Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, to Lord Boswell, Chair of the House of Lords European Union Committee, to the Rt Hon Andrew Lansley MP, Leader of the House of Commons and to the Rt Hon John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons.

Yours ever,



Lord Patten of Barnes CH
Chairman