

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS****Inquiry into aspects of BBC Charter Renewal: the public purposes of the BBC; and who should set the licence fee.****SUPPLEMENTARY CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

On 26 June, the House of Lords Select Committee on Communications launched an inquiry ahead of BBC Charter Renewal into two specific areas of the BBC: what should be the public purposes of the BBC, and who should set the level of the licence fee? Oral evidence sessions started in July and are expected to continue into November.

As a result of the evidence heard so far, the Committee has become interested in considering a third question: is the BBC's current scale and scope appropriate? This question links directly to the Committee's first question about the underlying purpose of the BBC. The public purposes should set out what the BBC is expected to do and our additional question considers what scale and scope is necessary to meet those purposes.

The Committee invites interested people and organisations to respond in writing to the following supplementary questions (as well as those listed on the original call for evidence) and any other they think important.

*Some argue that the BBC should shed some of its output; they say that the BBC hinders or crowds out commercial operators. Defenders of the current approach point to positive market impacts the presence of the BBC promotes. Where do you stand on this argument?*

*Is the BBC's current scale and scope appropriate? Are there any areas of the BBC's work that you would reduce in size or even jettison? Conversely, are there areas where you think the BBC does not do enough; and if so, are any of the public purposes thereby being neglected?*

*The terms "universality" and "market failure" are often used in relation to the BBC to describe the concepts of a BBC seeking to appeal to everyone and a BBC which fills gaps which other broadcasters will not cover. How would you define these two concepts? What are the pros and cons of each? Would you advocate one of these approaches and, if so, why?*

18 September 2015

## **ANNEX: GUIDANCE FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Written evidence should be submitted online using the written submission form available at <http://www.parliament.uk/hlcomms-charter-renewal-submission-form>. This page also provides guidance on submitting evidence.

Short submissions are preferred. A submission longer than six pages should include a one-page summary.

Paragraphs should be numbered. All submissions made through the written submission form will be acknowledged automatically by email.

Evidence which is accepted by the Committee may be published online at any stage; when it is so published it becomes subject to parliamentary copyright and is protected by parliamentary privilege. Submissions which have been previously published will not be accepted as evidence.

Once you have received acknowledgement that the evidence has been accepted you will receive a further email, and at this point you may publicise or publish your evidence yourself. In doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee, and you should be aware that your publication or re-publication of your evidence may not be protected by parliamentary privilege.

Personal contact details will be removed from evidence before publication, but will be retained by the Committee Office and used for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, for instance to seek additional information.

Persons who submit written evidence, and others, may be invited to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster and broadcast online; transcripts are also taken and published online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the clerk of the Committee, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy direct.

You may follow the progress of the inquiry at <http://www.parliament.uk/hlcomms-charter-renewal>.