

*Lord Stoddart of Swindon
(Labour)*

*Lord Harris of High Cross
(Independent)*

*Lord Pearson of Rannoch
(Conservative)*

Gavyn Davies, Esq.,
Chairman, BBC,
Portland Place,
London, W1.



10th December 2001

Dear Mr. Davies —

Thank you for your letter of 13th November.

You say you intend to see that all views on the European debate are reflected in your programmes and that your coverage is rigorous and scrupulously neutral.

Alas, this intention is plainly not being carried through, as Minotaur's research proves beyond doubt. For instance, apart from 35 seconds accorded (live) to Nigel Farage on 1st February 2001, the BBC does not appear to have permitted any debate at all on whether the UK should stay in or leave the European Union. Yet consistent polls show that a large percentage of the British people (and therefore of your licence fee payers) do now want to leave.

Our second point is that you say you have passed our letter to the BBC's executive in the shape of Mark Damazer (as did Christopher Bland with Minotaur's four previous reports), whereas the Charter and Agreement give responsibility for editorial bias to you as Chairman and to the Governors. We would remind you that Minotaur is an independent monitoring unit, run by two former senior broadcasting executives, David Keighley and Kathy Gyngeell, who have extensive experience in matters of political bias. Have you and the Governors considered Minotaur's analysis?

We also do not quite understand how you can dismiss Minotaur's last report on the BBC's coverage of the recent General Election, when we had not sent it to you. We enclose it now and regret that the devil is unfortunately in the detail. We sincerely hope that full consideration is afforded to its findings by the Governors. (It can also be found on Global Britain's website below).

We continue to believe that we are dealing with matters of great constitutional importance and that a meeting would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pearson of Rannoch".

Lord Pearson of Rannoch

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