

*Lord Stoddart of Swindon*  
(Labour)

*Lord Harris of High  
Cross*  
(Independent)

*Lord Pearson of Rannoch*  
(Conservative)

The Rt Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP,  
Secretary of State,  
Department for Culture, Media  
and Sport,  
2-4 Cockspur Street, London,  
SW1Y 5DH



10th December, 2001

Dear Tessa,

### **BBC Europhile Bias**

I refer to your predecessor's letter of 5th June and to previous correspondence about the BBC's treatment of the 'European' controversy.

Since then, Global Britain has commissioned a fifth independent survey from Minotaur Media Tracking, analysing the BBC's coverage of the General Election through its flagship news programmes. We wrote to the new Chairman of the BBC, Mr Gavyn Davies, on 24th October, as enclosed, with an outline of the findings and requesting a meeting.

In his reply of 13th November (enclosed), Mr Davies made it clear that, once again, the report was given to the BBC's executives, and not to the Governors, for consideration. He also declined to meet us. We have therefore written to him again today, as enclosed.

In his letter of 5th June, your predecessor stated: "It is the responsibility of the BBC Governors to ensure that the Corporation meets its obligations and you must pursue with them any concern you have about the manner in which they have carried out their responsibilities." We understand that, but it is difficult to know what more we can do if the Governors are not even being given the chance to fulfil their duty, and if the Chairman refuses to meet the former broadcasting executives who have compiled the reports.

We believe you should be aware of this situation as you consider the future relationship between the BBC and Ofcom.

We would also be grateful for any help you do feel able to offer.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Pearson of Rannoch

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