



Sir Michael Lyons
Chairman
BBC Trust Unit
Room 211
35 Marylebone High Street
London W1U 4AA

24th July, 2008

Dear Sir Michael —

I refer to your letter of 7th May and our earlier correspondence. Newswatch has continued to monitor the *Today* programme's EU output on the Lisbon Treaty, extending its analysis to include the *World at One*, *PM*, *The World Tonight*, *Newsnight* and the *Ten O'clock News*.

It will be a little while before all this is written up, but I understand that coverage remains shallow and partial. The Wilson Report appears to have had little or no effect.

I feel it would therefore now be appropriate to take you up on the kind offer in your letter of 7th May to forward my letter of 21st April and its supporting material to BBC Complaints, and to Francesca O'Brien, Head of Editorial Standards. There is quite a lot to digest here, but I hope it can be taken as preparatory to the next report, which I expect to receive in early September, and that we can then meet after Parliament returns with Ms. O'Brien, and whoever else you think might be helpful, to consider the whole picture.

In the meantime, we have had Cardiff University's report on coverage of the 4 UK Nations. I enclose a memo from David Keighley which shows how its methodology was not nearly as rigorous as that of Newswatch, yet the BBC seems to have easily accepted its findings. Perhaps because they fitted its 'World view'?

We have also had Sir Anthony Jay's "How to Save the BBC", which I have tabled as a peg for a general debate in the Lords before Christmas. I think my main worry, shared by others with experience of the BBC, has become that there still isn't a genuinely independent system for dealing with complaints. So it's not surprising that the number of complaints upheld last year amounted to only .045% of those made, according to your latest Annual Report, page 43. I fear that figure speaks for itself?

I look forward to hearing from you. With good wishes —

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Malcolm Pearson".