

## Letter from Chris Smith, Culture Secretary, 5th June 2001

Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
From the Secretary of State

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C01/05213/02094/DC

Lord Pearson of Rannoch  
Global Britain  
Hope House  
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LONDON  
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5 June 2001

*Dear Lord Pearson,*

Thank you for your letter of 17 May. You asked about the BBC's obligations, as referred to in my letter of 11 May. In summary, the Corporation has an obligation to treat controversial subjects with due accuracy and impartiality. Without prejudice to that obligation, it has undertaken to provide and keep under review its Home Services with a view to the maintenance of high general standards in all respects and to their offering a wide range of subject matter meeting the needs and interests of audiences, in accordance with various requirements, including that the Home Services contain comprehensive, authoritative and impartial coverage of news and current affairs in the United Kingdom and throughout the world to support fair and informed debate at local, regional and national levels. The full texts of the Charter and Agreement are on the BBC Online website. 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.

*Yours sincerely* A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Smith'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

CHRIS SMITH



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