

*Lord Stoddart of Swindon*  
(Labour)

*Lord Harris of High  
Cross*  
(Independent)

*Lord Pearson of Rannoch*  
(Conservative)

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



17th May, 2001

Dear Christopher,

### **BBC Europhile Bias**

Thank you for your letter of 11th May.

We fear you may have put your finger on the problem when you say that "*it is the responsibility of the BBC Governors to ensure that these obligations are met.*" We understand that the obligations in question, and please correct us if we are wrong, are that the BBC should be accurate, wide-ranging and fair, especially in its news and news-related coverage.

Yet it appears that the BBC's Governors may not have considered the four Minotaur reports which Global Britain has commissioned over the last two years and sent to the Chairman, Sir Christopher Bland. What seems to happen, as you will see from Sir Christopher's letter of 8th May, is that he relies on the views of BBC News executives, who cannot be expected to be objective, because they are being asked to sit in judgment on their own output.

If this is so, it looks as though the BBC may be failing to comply with its Charter and Agreement, which would be particularly serious during a General Election campaign. Is there anything you can do to make sure that the Chairman and Governors do consider all these detailed expert reports urgently, assuming they have not already done so, and act accordingly?

Yours sincerely,

Lord Pearson of Rannoch

PS: It is not entirely clear to us how your Communications White Paper sets out to cure this problem, but perhaps we can return to that in the next Parliament? We trust you agree that the urgent thing is for the BBC to achieve balance on this

vitaly important subject now.

*Global Britain, Hope House, 45 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3LT*

*Telephone: 0207 233 4443 Fax: 0207 233 4446*

*e-mail: [nicci@globalbritain.org](mailto:nicci@globalbritain.org) website: [globalbritain.org](http://globalbritain.org)*