

## Letter from Chris Smith, Culture Secretary, 11th May 2001

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

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11 May 2001

*Dear Lord Pearson*

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 25 April to Sir Christopher Bland, about the BBC's reporting of European Union issues.

I have noted your concerns. You have correctly raised them with Sir Christopher Bland as these are matters for the BBC. As you will know, the BBC's Charter and Agreement contain a specific requirement on the Corporation to treat controversial subjects with due accuracy and impartiality, and it is the responsibility of the BBC Governors to ensure that these obligations are met.

I can reassure you that under the proposed new regulatory arrangements set out in the Communications White Paper, there will be no reduction in the type or extent of these obligations.

*Yours sincerely* *Chris Smith*

CHRIS SMITH



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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