

Question 1: Do you agree that public service provision and funding beyond the BBC is an important part of any future system?:

Whilst I agree that there should be some level of public service provision and funding beyond the BBC, I would prefer to see a radical change in the way that funding is obtained.

Since the BBC World Service is funded by the Foreign Office, it might be preferable for 'home' public service broadcasting to be funded by the Home Office via the usual Government tax regimes rather than by the present method of a License Fee. The present system of the License Fee is effectively an additional tax on television ownership.

The present misuse of the License Fee in the payment of inordinate amounts of money to a few people in the BBC is, in my opinion, a gross waste of money that needs to be properly addressed. I believe that if public service broadcasting was paid by the Government within the usual tax regime then there would be a measure of democratic oversight of the funding insofar as the voting public would be able to influence public service broadcasting by voting for the Political Party that best represented the views of the public vis-a-vis public service broadcasting.

Question 2: Which of the three refined models do you think is most appropriate?:

None of the models are appropriate because they do not address the source of funding and do not offer to remove or replace the License Fee.

Question 3: Do you agree that in any future model Channel 4 should have an extended remit to innovate and provide distinctive UK content across platforms? If so, should it receive additional funding directly, or should it have to compete for funding?:

Since the BBC is the main public service broadcasting medium then there is no reason to include Channel 4 in the considerations of public service broadcasting.

Question 4: Do you think ITV1, Five and Teletext should continue to have public service obligations after 2014? Where ITV1 has an ongoing role, do you agree that the Channel 3 licensing structure should be simplified, if so what form of licensing would be most appropriate?:

Only Teletext should have public service obligations as a source of reliable information. Any channels other than the BBC should not have public service obligations and if any of those other channels do not comply with public standards of decency then they will probably become marginalised in any case.

Question 5: What role should competition for funding play in future? In which areas of content? What comments do you have on our description of how this might work in practice?:

Public service broadcasting should not be subject to competition for funding. Since I think that there should only be a single provider of public service broadcasting then it follows that there would be no need for competition for funding.

Question 6: Do you agree with our findings that nations and regions news continues to have an important role and that additional funding should be provided to sustain it?:

Yes.

Question 7: Which of the three refined models do you think is most appropriate in the devolved nations?:

None of the models would be appropriate given that the models do not address the removal of the present License Fee.

Question 8: Do you agree with our analysis of the future potential for local content services?:

Only with the proviso that the present License Fee be replaced by funding from the Government through the usual tax regime in a similar manner to the funding of the BBC World Service.

Question 9: Do you agree with our assessment of each possible funding source, in terms of its scale, advantages and disadvantages?:

I cannot agree with the assessment of the funding source, or the scale of the funding because the assessment does not address the issue of the payment of inordinate sums of money to a few people at the BBC. For instance, I do not believe that Jonathan Ross or anyone else should be paid £6 million per year of public money. Those employed by the BBC at public expense should be paid a rate not exceeding that paid to Civil Servants.

Question 10: What source or sources of funding do you think are most appropriate for the future provision of public service content beyond the BBC?:

Public service broadcasting should be funded by the Government through the usual tax regimes. The License Fee should be scrapped.

Question 11: Which of the potential approaches to funding for Channel 4 do you favour?:

Channel 4 should be funded in a similar manner to ITV.

Question 12: Do you agree that our proposals for 'tier 2' quotas affecting ITV plc, stv, UTV, Channel TV, Channel 4, Five and Teletext are appropriate, in the light of our analysis of the growing pressure on

funding and audiences? priorities? If not, how should we amend them, and what evidence can you provide to support your alternative?:

Teletext should be under the umbrella of public service broadcasting and funded accordingly, perhaps within the overall funding of the BBC.

Additional comments:

Getting rid of the License Fee would save money by not paying for the License Fee database, staffing, and enforcement. Scrapping the License Fee would also remove the threat of Criminal Records for those too poor to pay, especially since the poor are probably the ones who gain the most benefit from watching TV and would also benefit most from not having to fork out increasing amounts of money for the License Fee.