



Culture, Media and Sport Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 6188 website www.parliament.uk/cms

Colum Eastwood MP
House of Commons

11 September 2023

Dear Colum,

Thank you for your letter of 25 August regarding editorial and governance issues at BBC Northern Ireland.

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee takes an active interest in the operation of the BBC across the UK, including through regular scrutiny with the leadership of the BBC. Later this year we also expect to hold our pre-appointment hearing into the preferred candidate who emerges from the current recruitment for a new Chair of the BBC Board.

As you are aware, the Committee has been looking closely at issues of culture and behaviour in broadcasters. In doing so, we have sought to avoid litigate individual cases or replicating the work of existing inquiries and processes.

In the first instance, I would expect that the BBC Board and its Northern Ireland Committee would be best placed to respond to the issues you set out in your letter. If you haven't already, I would encourage you to raise these matters Dame Elan Closs Stephens as the BBC's Acting Chair, and Michael Smyth CBE as the Board Member for Northern Ireland.

I would, of course, be happy to meet with you and colleagues to discuss your concerns and any response you receive to the BBC's response, to help inform the Committee's continued scrutiny of the Corporation.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Caroline Dinenage DBE MP
Chair, Culture, Media and Sport Committee