



Culture, Media and Sport Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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

Tim Davie
Director General
BBC

By email

19 September 2023

Dear Tim,

I am writing concerning the serious allegations regarding Russell Brand, which raise significant questions not only about the culture of the industry in the past but whether that culture still prevails today.

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee has taken a keen interest in scrutinising the behaviour of the media, and particularly Public Service Broadcasters, regarding their duty of care towards staff and contributors. It is not enough for any organisation to have appropriate safeguarding and whistleblowing procedures in place: we need to know that these are adhered to. Staff must be assured of the safety of their working environment and have confidence that their employers will address any concerns they raise.

As you told us when you last appeared before the Committee on 13th June, the Corporation has needed to learn from past mistakes and any complacency is misplaced. I welcome the internal investigations that the BBC is undertaking but I would be grateful if you could set out the timescale by which you anticipate these investigations will be complete and ask that you keep the Committee updated on progress. It would also be helpful if you can provide details on how people with information relevant to the investigations can contribute should they wish to provide any new information or raise concerns.

Please could you also assure us that, while respecting any potential police investigations, all information that can be disclosed publicly will be so. Finally, we would urge you to encourage people to report incidents to the police.

I am also writing to Channel 4 regarding these allegations and we urge both the BBC and Channel 4 to do everything possible not only to ensure that employees, contributors and suppliers feel safe at work, but also create an environment whereby people can speak out when procedures are breached.

Yours sincerely,

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