



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP
Secretary of State for
Culture, Media and Sport
1st Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

E: enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dcms

March 2024

Baroness Stowell of Beeston
Chair, House of Lords Communications and Digital
Committee
Sent by email

Dear Tina,

BBC FUNDING MODEL REVIEW EXPERT PANEL

In December 2023 the Government launched a review into the future funding of the BBC, against the context of an evolving media landscape, increased industry competition and changing audience behaviour.

As set out in its [terms of reference](#), the review will explore the sustainability of the BBC's current licence fee model, building an evidence-based understanding of alternative models for funding the BBC. The review will be informed by externally-commissioned research, and supported by a panel of independent experts from across the broadcasting and media sectors.

The Government is pleased to update the Communications and Digital Committee that we have now appointed the members of this expert panel and will be publicly announcing their names today, Thursday 21 March, ahead of their first meeting at the end of this month. In confidence, we are sharing advanced notice of the panel membership with the Committee:

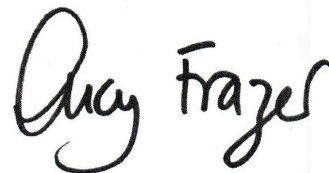
- Martin Ivens
- Sir Peter Bazalgette
- Siobhan Kenny MBE
- Dame Frances Cairncross DBE
- David Elstein
- Oli Hyatt
- Helen Bower Easton CBE
- Amber de Botton
- Lorna Tilbian

The panel will provide independent expertise and advice on potential future funding models for the BBC, as well as exploring new ways for the broadcaster to increase commercial income and how it could transition to any potential new funding model. The panel will not be providing policy recommendations: responsibility for any decisions relating to the BBC's funding model will remain with the Government and will be made in accordance with the process for Charter Review in 2027, as set out in the current Royal Charter.

Panellists were selected in consultation with the industry, based on their experience and knowledge of issues at the heart of the UK's media industry and public sector broadcasting. Together, they represent a broad range of audience views and interests, including on issues such as international relations, foreign politics and creating content for young audiences.

The BBC is a great national institution and the government wants the BBC to continue to succeed as a public service broadcaster long into the future. This panel will provide valuable insight on future funding models for the BBC, guaranteeing its long term financial sustainability and its place at the heart of the UK's creative sector. The Government will also seek input from a range of other experts and sources to inform it on the issues under consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Frazer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport