



**Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office**

The Rt Hon. David Lammy MP
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Dame Caroline Dinenage MP
Chair, Culture, Media and Sport Committee

30 June 2025

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter of 5 June on behalf of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee about funding to the BBC World Service. I am replying, as Secretary of State with responsibility for the BBC World Service, on behalf of my Culture and Defence colleagues.

We agree with you about the importance and value of the World Service to the UK. As Baroness Chapman and Stephanie Peacock described in their letter to the Committee of 3 March, it plays a key role in supporting our national interest and shaping the global information environment; providing accurate impartial news to 320m people around the world; and exposing, debunking and providing a counterpoint to narratives produced with harmful intent.

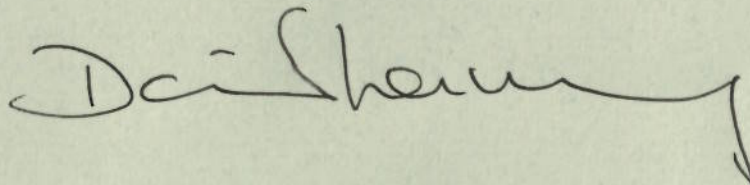
You mention the increasingly challenging global security context. While funding for media in states that don't share the same values as ours is usually opaque, we know that they are investing in their global news operations, as are other malign actors who sow misinformation and disinformation around the world. Despite this, the World Service remains the world's most trusted international news service.

That is why this Government gave the World Service a £32.6m funding uplift for 2025-26. We value it and we are prepared to back it financially, even in a difficult fiscal context.

You ask about future resources. We now have our departmental allocation in the Spending Review. Following the decision to reduce UK ODA from 0.5% of GNI to 0.3% in 2027, to enable increased spending on defence in recognition of the increasing threats faced by the UK, FCDO ODA and non-ODA allocations and the impact on programmes are being worked through between now and the autumn. The World Service's Grant-in-Aid funding for the next three years will be decided through this process.

Whilst I cannot get ahead of allocations decisions, I hope this assures you of the value we attach to the BBC World Service, and our continuing support for its role in promoting the national interest, supporting our security, and reflecting our culture and values to the world.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Lammy', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

THE RT HON. DAVID LAMMY MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs