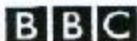


Letter from Gavyn Davies, Chairman, BBC, 8th January 2002

British Broadcasting Corporation Broadcasting House Portland Place London W1A 1AA Telephone 020 7580 4468



From the Chairman

8 January 2002

Lord Pearson of Rannoch
Global Britain
Hope House
45 Great Peter Street
LONDON SW1P 3LT

Dear Lord Pearson

on website

Thank you for your letter of 10 December and enclosed copy of Minotaur's report on the BBC's coverage of the most recent General Election.

You are right in thinking that the Chairman and the Board of Governors have ultimate responsibility for the BBC's editorial standards. However, we achieve this not by monitoring every programme but by satisfying ourselves that BBC management has appropriate procedures in place for editorial standards to be maintained, and by ensuring that there is proper reporting on a regular basis.

note 5.1

As I said in my last letter, I do not believe that the Minotaur reports that we have received give grounds for concern, but they have been forwarded to BBC News management and I would expect to be alerted through the normal reporting channels if they raised the kind of issues you suggest.

I should also mention that our Programme Complaints Unit has been established to investigate serious complaints against BBC programmes independently of the production departments. This Unit reports to BBC management and considers specific examples of programmes or items where there are grounds for believing that there has been a serious breach of editorial standards. Complainants who remain dissatisfied with the finding of the Head of Programme Complaints are entitled to appeal to the Programme Complaints Committee of the Board of Governors, which will review that finding.

*i.e. for single programmes -
not bias from editorial policy*

Contd/.....

If you have a specific complaint about a particular programme or item, you are welcome to write to Fraser Steel at the above address with details. I should emphasise, however, that his Unit can only deal with complaints against individual programmes; it is not part of their brief to consider complaints of a general nature, nor to examine the findings of external research organisations.

Yours sincerely

ie. get started?

Gavyn Davies

(Have the wretched Governors even seen the Minobank reports ?)



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