



The Rt. Hon. the Lord Ryder of Wensum  
Acting Chairman  
BBC  
Media Centre, Media Village 201  
Wood Lane  
London W12 7TQ

14<sup>th</sup> May, 2004

Dear Richard -


Thank you for your letter of 4<sup>th</sup> May.

It is really good news that the BBC is to conduct an independent enquiry into your coverage of our relationship with the European Union. You can be sure of our full co-operation. It is of course vital to make sure that the make-up of the panel is accepted as independent by all sides of the debate. No easy task.

It is also encouraging that change is in prospect for the way the Governors discharge their public service remit. Many of us remain convinced that the key change here is to make certain that the Governors are advised by people independent of management, especially when responding to complaints about editorial bias.

I feel sure you will do your best to see that this change does indeed come to pass.

In the meantime, together with millions of your license fee payers, we are extremely grateful for what you and the Governors have done so far.

 also for Ralph Harris  
& David Stoddart.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch

P.S. I hope it doesn't sound churlish if I mention that I have not had an acknowledgement to my letter of 31<sup>st</sup> March to Mark Damazer, enclosed. It makes a vital point in the 'European' debate.