



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

Lord Hall of Birkenhead  
Director-General  
BBC

T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP  
Direct Tel: 0131 348 5222  
Fax: 0131 348 5600

Sent by email only

[ec.committee@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:ec.committee@scottish.parliament.uk)

10 December 2015

Dear Lord Hall

Thank you for agreeing to attend Committee on 12 January, at 10.30 am, to give evidence in relation to charter renewal. We look forward to discussing the opportunities presented by the charter to enhance the BBC and the creative sector in Scotland.

Prior to your attendance on the 12th, the Committee invites the BBC to provide factual information on a number of issues, as set out below. This information will inform the evidence session, help make the best use of the time available, and provide an opportunity for interested parties to comment.

The Committee would be grateful to receive the following information—

- The amount of income collected from the licence fee in Scotland.
- How the current funding model for the BBC in Scotland breaks down, including BBC Alba, radio, television, online and any other costs.
- The Committee seeks details of how network television production spend in Scotland is calculated at around 9%, including how much of this figure, by volume and value, is accounted for by in-house production and by independent production companies (with separate totals for qualifying and non-qualifying independent producers). The Committee also seeks details of what is spent in Scotland in terms of regional television programming (opt-out and BBC Alba) and how this is broken down between in-house production and independent production companies.

- The impact – including in economic terms and the development of talent – that the BBC’s system of production quotas and the network supply strategy have had in Scotland.
- Please respond to points made in a written submission to the Committee from Matchlight regarding how the BBC’s commissioning practice has operated to subvert the spirit of the current Nation’s quota. Specifically, is it appropriate to set 100% of a project’s budget against the Scottish/Nation’s quota when a lesser share of the overall budget is actually spent in Scotland on that production?
- What proposals does the BBC have to increase commissioning decision-making (the ability to directly commission new projects) and spend in Scotland?
- How does the BBC see the structure whereby it is held to account by the Scottish Parliament working in practice?
- Please provide the average cost per hour for in-house production compared with that for independent production companies, for the Nations and London.
- Your submission to the Committee states that, in Scotland, 95% of adults consume BBC content each week. Can you provide a detailed breakdown by medium and channel in order to allow comparison with UK consumption figures?
- Could BBC Scotland provide its annual accounts and/or a statement of its financial activities in 2014/15?

In order to allow the Committee an opportunity to consider your responses before the first evidence session on 5 January, I would be grateful to receive the above information by close on 31 December.

Yours sincerely

**STEWART MAXWELL MSP  
CONVENER**