

AS1

**Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP**  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



John Mulholland  
Editor  
The Observer  
Kings Place  
90 York Way  
LONDON  
N1 9GU

22 July 2011

Dear Mr Mulholland

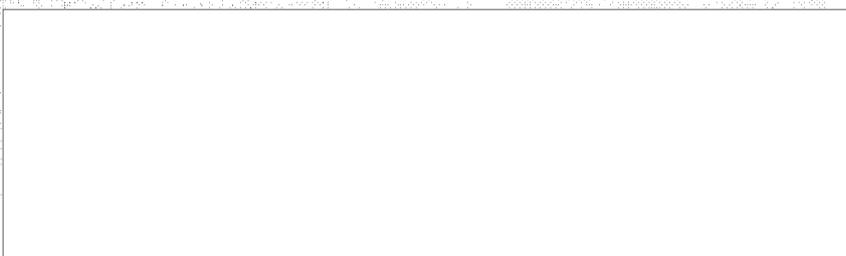
It has been brought to my attention that there was a strong suggestion that journalists working for the Observer accessed my bank account details in 1999.

Could you please let me know if there is any truth or substance to these claims?

I should say that no story emerged from any attempt to access this private financial information, presumably because there was nothing considered worthy of reporting.

I appreciate that you were not the editor of the Observer at the time. Your predecessor Roger Alton was in post. However, in light of current and ongoing concerns about how elements of the press access information, I am sure you recognise the importance of investigating allegations like this as thoroughly as possible.

Yours for Scotland



**ALEX SALMOND**

AS2

**theguardian TheObserver**

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP  
First Minister of Scotland  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU  
Telephone 020-3353 2000  
guardian.co.uk

July 27, 2011

Dear Mr Salmond,

Thank you for your letter of 22 July 2011 to John Mulholland, editor of The Observer, which we discussed on the phone yesterday. The editor takes the allegation in your letter very seriously indeed and has asked me to look into it.

Your query concerns "a strong suggestion" by a journalist that other un-named journalists working at The Observer in 1999 accessed your bank account details. On the basis of the information you have sent us, we can find no evidence of this. We have searched through the records recently given to us by the Information Commissioner concerning Operation Motorman and can find nothing to support the suggestion. As you point out, The Observer did not publish any articles concerning your bank accounts or financial transactions at that time.

In order to look into this allegation any further, we would need more information from the person who has spoken to you privately, and we would need to know what evidence he has to substantiate the allegation that your bank records were accessed by Observer journalists.

Please do get in touch again if any such evidence comes to light so that we can either look into it ourselves or pass it on to the relevant inquiry.

Yours sincerely,



**Jan Thompson**  
Managing Editor, GNM  
jan.thompson@

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MOD300013991

AS3

Room 211  
35 Marylebone High Street  
London W1U 4AA

T:   
F:   
bbc.co.uk/bbctrust

# BBC Trust

From The Chairman

Rt Hon Alec Salmond MSP MP  
First Minister  
The Office of the First Minister  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

MCS Draft  
Reply  
Joe 5/7

Date: 4 JUL 2007

3 July 2007



C.U. received  
10 JUL 2007

The BBC's *Annual Report & Accounts* for 2006/2007 is published today and I am pleased to enclose a copy.

This is the first Annual Report of this Charter and it reflects the new and very different governance system now operating at the BBC. The Trust is the Corporation's sovereign body. As Trustees, we work on behalf of the public, protecting the independence of the BBC, seeking to understand the wide range of opinions and expectations, and then represent the public interest by using our judgement to make decisions that set the BBC's course.

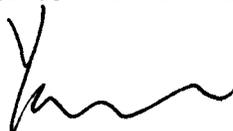
During our first six months we have made considerable progress in implementing the new structure and systems which will allow us to do our job effectively. Because this work is ongoing, our assessments of BBC performance in this Annual Report are necessarily provisional and incomplete, but where objective evidence is available we have sought to be frank in our comments.

Some messages are already coming through strongly; the public trusts the BBC and values much of what it produces, but it wants to see more innovation in programming. The ability to take creative risks, distinctiveness, quality, impartiality and independence are what justifies the BBC's public funding and these factors will underpin our decisions about licence fee investment in the months ahead.

There is evidence of the BBC becoming more efficient, but there is more to be achieved. Over the past two years the BBC has delivered £228million in savings, but at the loss of 1,891 posts. In 2007/2008 – the final year of the three year efficiency programme – the BBC must meet a further target of £127million. Thereafter the Trust will set new targets for efficiency in discussion with the NAO.

The Trust has also published its forward work plan, in which we outline our priorities for the year ahead. These include a project to understand the BBC's role in the market for on-air talent and our first major service review, of [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk).

An independent BBC delivering high-quality output will give us a strong foundation to ensure that the BBC makes a very important contribution to the social, economic and civic life of the UK. This is a bold ambition. We can achieve it by ensuring that the BBC adds significantly to the creative and economic vigour of the UK, and by ensuring that the BBC contributes to the good reputation of the UK internationally. The new system of governance equips the Trust to play its part in meeting this objective on behalf of all licence fee payers.



**Sir Michael Lyons**  
**Chairman, BBC Trust**

A54

Marnoch J (Jimmy)

From: Pollock S (Stephen) on behalf of First Minister  
 Sent: 12 June 2008 12:37  
 To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit  
 Cc: Osowska F (Francesca)  
 Subject: FW: BBC Trust impartiality report on network news coverage of the four UK nations

MCU,

Please see the email below. Can you please put this on the system as a GF for First Minister.

Francesca, for info.

Thanks,

Stephen Pollock  
 Correspondence Clerk  
 Office of the First Minister

From: Michael Lyons & PA [mailto:Michael.Lyons@ ]  
 Sent: 11 June 2008 11:05  
 To: Osowska F (Francesca)  
 Subject: BBC Trust impartiality report on network news coverage of the four UK nations

.....  
 This email has been received from an external party and  
 has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.  
 .....

C.U. received  
 12 JUN 2008

Dear Alex,

**BBC Trust impartiality report on network news coverage of the four UK nations**

As part of our routine research and consultations with the public and our Audience Councils in each of the four nations last year, it became apparent that some people felt that the BBC was not covering the different policies of the nations in a way that enabled all audiences to understand fully what was happening in different parts of the UK.

The BBC Trust has today published its impartiality report and conclusions on this topic following an independent review by Professor Anthony King and extensive research by Cardiff University and the British Market Research Bureau (BMRB).

Among its important findings, the report indicates a clear desire on the part of all audiences to learn about all parts of the UK. It also indicates that the BBC's coverage is generally seen as fair and impartial. But the analysis also points out shortcomings in the BBC's coverage. It suggests that the BBC needs to improve the range, clarity and precision of its network news coverage of what is happening in the different UK nations and regions and make this coverage more relevant and interesting to all audiences.

BBC Management has already made clear its commitment to getting this right and has outlined the

12/06/2008

action it proposes to take (which we have included in our report). We have asked for a final action plan by the summer, and shall track their progress in achieving it over the next 18 months.

The report and all supporting evidence are available on the Trust's website via the following link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/research/impartiality/nations.html>

Michael Lyons  
Chairman

BBC Trust  
Room 211, 35 Marylebone High Street, London W1U 4AA

This email was received from the INTERNET and scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Cable&Wireless in partnership with MessageLabs. (CCTM Certificate Number 2007/11/0032.) In case of problems, please call your organisation's IT Helpdesk. Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

12/06/2008

MOD300014199

ASS

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



Sir Michael Lyons  
Chairman  
The BBC Trust  
Room 211  
35 Marylebone High Street  
London  
W1U 4AA

Our ref: 2008/0022830

MSW July 2008

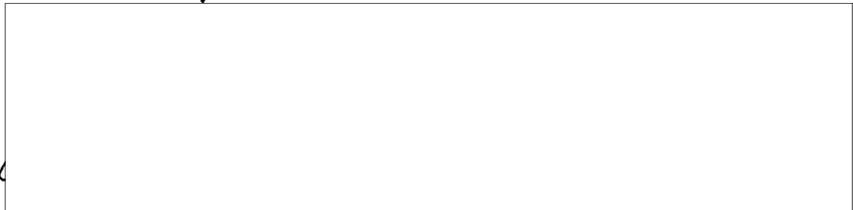
Dear Sir Michael,

Thank you for your email of 11 June advising me of the publication of the BBC Trust's Impartiality report on network news coverage for the four UK nations. It was helpful to be able to discuss this and other matters when we met earlier this month.

I have read the report with interest and noted that it highlights that the BBC needs to make more efforts to better serve its viewers in Scotland and in the other nations of the UK. This concern has also been a focus for the Scottish Broadcasting Commission. The recent *Public Attitudes to Broadcasting* report produced by the Commission and the Scottish Government, highlighted concerns from viewers in Scotland that issues affecting them are not well reported by the BBC.

I welcome the commitment of the BBC Trust to do something about these issues and hope that the action plan drawn up by the BBC Executive is ambitious and meets the legitimate expectations of viewers in Scotland. I will be keeping a close eye on developments, and look forward to discussing this with you again in the future.

*Yours for Scotland*



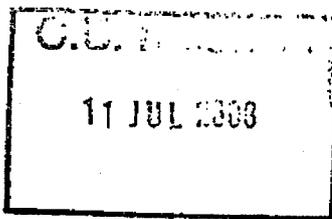
ALEX SALMOND

\_\_\_\_\_

MCA - substitute Acknowledgement for FAP signature 10/3.

Room 211  
35 Marylebone High Street  
London W1U 4AA

bbc.co.uk/bbctrust



Trust  
AS6

From The Chairman

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP MSP  
First Minister  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

RECEIVED

FM OFFICE

8 July 2008

**ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2007/08**

The BBC's Annual Report & Accounts 2007/08 is published today and I am pleased to enclose a copy.

Last year was one of change and many challenges for the BBC. In addition to implementing the new governance arrangements and facing up to some serious editorial failings, the six year investment strategy was approved and is now being rolled out. As part of this, long-term objectives were set by the Trust, reflecting what the BBC needs to deliver to remain relevant and valued into the future. These include increasing quality and distinctiveness in everything it does; maintaining maximum reach consistent with its purposes and values; and improving efficiency.

These long-term objectives became central themes during the year. The BBC's overall weekly reach to the UK population was up slightly, from 92.5% to 93%. Perceptions of quality held steady year on year, and there was an appreciable increase in the number of programmes scoring highly. Even so, distinctiveness of the BBC remains the single biggest issue for licence fee payers, hence this remaining a clear priority. The BBC delivered £347 million in annual recurring savings; this was a significant achievement, even though we are disappointed it fell short of the £355 million target. We have since set a new annual efficiency target of 3%.

2007/08 was undoubtedly a breakthrough year for technology, with the successful launch of the instantly popular BBC iPlayer and the HDTV channel, both having been subjected to public value tests. But usage data also demonstrates that television and radio remain just as important as the new and on-demand services to audiences, young and old.

It is essential that, in setting challenging objectives for the BBC, the Trust provides the support needed to meet them. Last year was testing, with demands for greater efficiency and higher quality being made alongside the BBC having to strengthen the editorial weaknesses which emerged during the year.

It is early days and there is still a long way to go, but it is already clear that the BBC is capable of meeting these challenges and – when it does – the public approves.

Yours sincerely

Sir Michael Lyons

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



Sir Michael Lyons  
Chairman  
BBC Trust  
Room 211  
35 Marylebone High Street  
London  
W1U 4AA

Our ref: 2008/0027454

SA August 2008

Dear Sir Michael

Thank you for your letter of 8 July enclosing a copy of the BBC Annual Report and Accounts for 2007-08.

There have been many developments in broadcasting since I established the Scottish Broadcasting Commission almost a year ago: Mark Thompson announced his desire to increase production in Scotland to at least 9%; the Trust approved the Gaelic Digital Service partnership and the King report highlighted that there was some issues around news reporting on the BBC. All of these issues are covered in your report and I was heartened to read of your assurances that you will guarantee that the commitments made by the BBC Executive are fulfilled.

I commend the BBC Trust for their determination to ensure that the BBC is properly serving the needs of all the nations of the UK and I urge you to continue your efforts to make sure that Scotland is fairly represented both in terms of programmes made in Scotland and in how Scotland is portrayed on the BBC's UK network.

I will of course be monitoring progress closely and look forward to working with you in the future as we take forward the recommendations of the Scottish Broadcasting Commission.

*Yours faithfully*  
*Alex Salmond*

ALEX SALMOND

AS8

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



Sir Michael Lyons  
Chair  
The BBC Trust  
Room 211  
35 Marylebone High Street  
LONDON  
W1U 4AA

Our ref: B2534889

17<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Dear Sir Michael

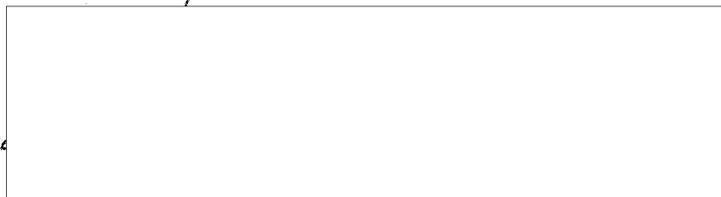
I am writing about the future of BBC ALBA and its availability to all of Scotland. Given the strong interest in the future of the channel which the BBC and the Scottish Government share, I believe it is important to put on record our position.

BBC ALBA has experienced a very positive start. There is evidence of considerable goodwill towards the channel. Reported viewing figures are impressive and the quality of the output has been well received. Overall, BBC ALBA has had a positive response from the public, from the media and from political representatives. I know you will be as pleased as I am that BBC ALBA has made such a positive impact as a new addition to the Scottish media landscape.

Given this background, there is a great deal of concern that BBC ALBA is not carried on Freeview and that the channel will have to undergo a further investigation by the BBC Trust prior to a decision being taken on its Freeview carriage after digital switchover. The Scottish Government fully supports the allocation of Freeview space for BBC ALBA. I would be grateful for your assurance that you are recording the strong support for the new channel and will use it as evidence on which to base your further considerations of Freeview carriage for BBC ALBA.

*Alex Salmond*

ALEX SALMOND



AS9

MCU (GF) (for First Minister)

17/7

Trust

Room 211  
35 Marylebone High Street  
London W1U 4AA

bbc.co.uk/bbctrust

Note to Action Officer: Please advise whether  
FM needs to reply. If yes  
provide draft. If no, provide  
polite acknowledgement for  
signature of Neil Hastie  
PS/ First Minister.  
FM UFRICE  
Thank you  
14 July 2009

From The Chairman

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP MSP  
First Minister  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

Dear Alex

I enclose a copy of the BBC's Annual Report and Accounts for 2008/9. It has been a year of both achievement and challenge for the BBC. As well as producing some great content and programmes during the year the BBC has also faced some considerable challenges as it continues to define its place in a rapidly changing economic, technological and social landscape.

The last year has seen the BBC make progress in many areas, including efficiency, partnerships and its ability to serve all audiences. Asked whether they would miss the BBC if it wasn't there, this year 85 per cent of people said they would - up from 70 per cent two years ago. This was primarily down to programmes and other content highlights of the year included *A Short Stay in Switzerland*, *Being Human* and *Five Minutes of Heaven*.

During the year, the BBC rose to the challenge set by the Trust to deliver cumulative efficiencies amounting to three per cent over five years. In 2008/09 - the first year of the programme - the BBC delivered £237 million in efficiencies, putting it on course to meet the overall target of £1.9 billion.

Nevertheless, there is more to do in many areas, including producing more fresh and new ideas for programme and content, ensuring systems are working to avoid failures like the Ross/Brand broadcast and making sure the BBC is as transparent as it can be about how it operates.

The year ahead will present its own challenges as the BBC engages with the Government's Digital Britain agenda. The BBC recognises that the Digital Britain report addresses real problems and identifies some real opportunities. The BBC has an important part to play in delivering the report's aims, including helping to secure and maintain a plurality of public service broadcasting in the UK. It is to this end that, at the Trust's challenge, the BBC has been vigorously pursuing partnerships with public service broadcasters and others over the past year.

I will repeat here that the Trust doesn't believe that top slicing is in the interests of licence fee payers. We will continue to oppose it because it weakens independence and accountability and in time will lead to the licence fee being merged with the monies from general taxation. Through new partnerships the BBC can help create value in the creative economy rather than just transferring it.

The Trust's role is to get the best out of the BBC for licence fee payers. We will continue to do this by challenging and supporting the BBC. This year the BBC has responded well and whilst there is still work to be done, it is moving in the right direction.

Yours sincerely *with kind regards*

[Redacted signature box]

Sir Michael Lyons

C.U. received  
20 JUL 2009

AS10

An Fhìor Urr Ailig Salmond BPA  
Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
Am Prìomh Mhinistear  
First Minister of Scotland



Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG  
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
F/T: 0845 774 1741

Sir Michael Lyons  
Chair  
BBC Trust  
180 Great Portland Street  
London  
W1W 5QZ

28<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Dear Sir Michael,

I am writing to you as the BBC Trust prepares to consider the proposal for BBC ALBA's distribution on Freeview to reiterate the Scottish Government's support for the channel's distribution on all digital television platforms.

The Scottish Parliament held a debate on 6 October congratulating BBC ALBA on its many achievements and supporting the channel in its ambition to secure access to Freeview. The motion for this debate was proposed by the Conservatives and attracted clear and unqualified support from all parties and followed a previous debate in February sponsored by the Government which also secured all party support.

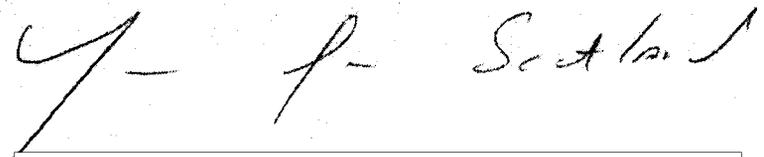
The success of BBC ALBA, as noted by the Scottish Parliament in February of this year and more recently in the members' motion, is a clear indication that the channel should be available to all viewers in Scotland. It is a Public Service Broadcasting channel and as such should be available on all the main digital television platforms.

It is only on BBC ALBA that viewers in Scotland can see their rugby clubs compete in the Magners' League, or enjoy the cultural feast that is offered by the Shetland Bid, the Hebridean Celtic Festival, the Traditional Music Awards and many other events. However, all viewers in other regions are able to watch, for example, their national clubs in competition on BBC Northern Ireland and BBC Wales. In addition, access to Freeview would address an inequality where all minority language viewers in Wales and Ireland will have access to programmes but this is not the case in Scotland.

All parties in the Scottish Parliament have shown support for the unique partnership between MG ALBA and the BBC. We have taken great interest in the fact that the independent production industry in Scotland has benefited enormously from the increased demand for programmes for BBC ALBA. The fact that BBC ALBA commissioned 50% of all the independently produced hours of television content made in Scotland in 2009 is proof of the importance of BBC ALBA for the vitality of the domestic production sector. The Scottish Government recognises the importance of this as a driver for the creative industries in the Scottish economy.

I urge the BBC Trust to grant carriage on Freeview to BBC ALBA on the basis proposed. If it becomes possible in the future to find a technical solution which allows both BBC ALBA and all existing BBC services to be available on Freeview, then this would of course be welcome. However our understanding is that this is not currently possible. We understand that the impact on radio listeners of the current proposal will be minor and may impact on less than 4,000 listeners. We share the confidence of the BBC and MG ALBA that widening access to BBC ALBA will allow large numbers of people, perhaps in excess of 150,000, currently unable to receive the channel to enjoy the high-quality Scottish content for which there is so clearly an appetite.

The BBC has a long and commendable record of Gaelic language broadcasting and we look forward to a decision that will build on and extend this record.

Handwritten signature of Alex Salmond in black ink, written in a cursive style.

ALEX SALMOND

ASII  
Trust

BBC Trust  
180 Great Portland Street  
London W1W 5QZ

bbc.co.uk/bbctrust

From the Chairman

L

FM OFFICE  
31 DEC 2010

Fast track  
-> Full reply

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister of Scotland  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

21 December 2010

Dear Alex,

Thank you for your letter of 28 October expressing the Scottish Parliament's support for the carriage of BBC Alba on Freeview, albeit with the accompanying impact on users of the BBC's radio services on Freeview in Scotland.

Following the publication of the Strategy Review last week, we have now completed our review of BBC Alba. We are later today publishing our report, alongside accompanying evidence, on our website: [www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust). But I am writing to you now to let you know in confidence the conclusions we have reached.

Our review has demonstrated that BBC ALBA has made good progress since launch and is highly valued by audiences in Scotland. The partnership between the BBC and MG Alba is working well and we are keen to see the channel go from strength to strength.

I am also pleased to be able to tell you that as part of the review the Trust has approved BBC Alba for carriage on Freeview in place of the BBC's radio services in Scotland when the television channel is on air. I hope that this is news that you and the Scottish Parliament will welcome.

Recognising that the removal of radio services from Freeview in Scotland will disappoint some listeners, the Trust expects the Executive to continue to explore whether the development of technologies which use spectrum more efficiently might enable some radio services on DTT in Scotland to be maintained alongside BBC ALBA in the future, subject to the normal value for money and public value considerations.

Jeremy Peat, Trustee for Scotland, will be calling you later this morning to talk through our decision, but feel free to also contact me directly if it would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

Sir Michael Lyons  
Chairman

Getting the best out of the BBC for licence fee payers

AS12

**Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP**  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



Sir Michael Lyons  
Chair  
BBC Trust  
180 Great Portland Street  
London  
W1W 5QZ

Our Ref: 2011/0000674  
January 2011

Dear Sir Michael

Thank you for your letter of 21 December 2010, to inform me of the conclusions of your review of BBC Alba.

As expressed by Fiona Hyslop in her letter to you of 21 December 2010, we are of course very pleased to hear that your review demonstrated BBC ALBA's continued progress and that it is highly valued by Scottish audiences. I am encouraged that the partnership between the BBC and MG Alba appears to be working well.

I am delighted that BBC Alba has been approved for carriage on Freeview. As you know, this move has been supported unanimously by the Scottish Parliament. I welcome and support your acknowledgement of the need to explore ways of reducing the loss of services to radio listeners.

I am grateful for the careful deliberation given to these matters by you and your Trust colleagues, and thank you for taking a decision that will improve the accessibility of BBC ALBA's excellent service for people in Scotland.

*Alex Salmond*

ALEX SALMOND



AS13

*Geoff for advice.*

*JG  
26/9*



22 September 2008

FM OFFICE

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister of Scotland  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

*L*

Pacific Quay  
Glasgow G51 1PQ  
t : 0141 300 3000  
f : 0141 300 3030  
w : stv.tv

*decline to  
Sep. notes*

Dear First Minister

**stv, the future of Scottish Broadcasting**

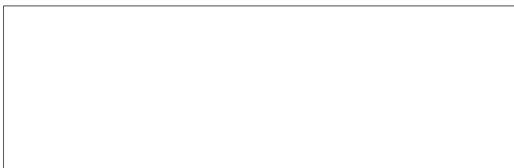
I am writing to invite you to attend a lunch event with Bobby Hain, Managing Director of Broadcasting and myself, in October.

As you may know, this is a crucial time for the UK's broadcasting industry as we await Ofcom's review of Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) this month. This consultation document will outline the regulator's thinking about the future for this service for all broadcasters in the UK including stv in Scotland. We have been leading a campaign for the regulator to recognise the material differences between the needs of the nations and the English regions which we hope will be reflected in Ofcom's work.

We would welcome having the opportunity to brief you on our vision for the future and our plans to ensure that we continue to deliver the high quality PSB service to our Scottish audiences.

We are holding a series of lunches around Scotland and I do hope that one of these dates and locations is suitable for you to join us. I would be grateful if you could complete the attached RSVP form and return it to my colleague Angela Burnett by 10 October 2008.

Yours sincerely



Rob Woodward  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Enc

stv central limited  
Registered in Scotland  
No 172149  
Registered office  
Pacific Quay  
Glasgow G51 1PQ

**stv, the future of Scottish Broadcasting**

**Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP**

I will be able to attend *stv, the future of Scottish Broadcasting*

Please indicate which lunch event you would like to attend:

20<sup>th</sup> October **Glasgow**  
12- 2pm  
stv studios, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1PQ

24<sup>th</sup> October **Aberdeen**  
12- 2pm  
stv studios, Craigshaw Business Park, West Tullos.  
Aberdeen, AB12 3QH

27<sup>th</sup> October **Edinburgh**  
12- 2pm  
stv studios 10 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2DU

31<sup>st</sup> October **Dundee**  
12- 2pm  
stv studios, Seabraes, Greenmarket, Dundee, DD1 4HY

I have the following dietary requirements:

.....  
.....

I regret that I will be unable to attend *stv, the future of Scottish Broadcasting*

**Please respond by:-**

Mail to

email to:-

Telephone:

Mrs Angela Burnett  
stv Studios  
Pacific Quay  
Glasgow  
G51 1PQ

angela.burnett@

can - Agree that this is more of  
an MCW as correspondence  
not a diary entry?

19/11

AS14



stv group plc

13th November 2008

Mr Alex Salmond, MSP  
Scottish National Party  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

RECORDED  
17 NOV 2008  
FM OFFICE

27 NOV 2008

Dear Alex

I was sorry that you were unable to join one of our lunches recently. Broadcasting in Scotland is at a pivotal point as we progress through Ofcom's review of Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) and I thought it would be useful to summarise the conversation at our lunches for your information.

stv is the only commercial PSB provider in Scotland. However, news and other programmes that we provide may be in some jeopardy and I am therefore hoping to enlist your support for stv's preferred position - namely that that stv receives some support to enable this to continue - which we will submit to Ofcom in our Public Service Broadcasting submission in early December.

**PSB Review**

Ofcom's consultation on the future of PSB has a pressing immediacy about it given the fact that for many broadcasters, including stv, the benefits of holding PSB licences will soon be outweighed by the cost of providing PSB content. The regulator has laid out a number of proposals for the future of PSB in its current consultation, some of which contain no specific licences for Scotland going forward and could mean a significant reduction in existing levels of news and current affairs specifically produced and transmitted in Scotland.

stv on the other hand is committed to being a Public Service Broadcaster. We have a 50 year heritage of serving Scotland, our *Scotland Today* and *North Tonight* news programmes which now contain four unique "micro-regions" with localised content reach over a million people every week and we believe we are best placed to continue providing this highly regarded content going forward as part of a UK network.

**Scottish Broadcasting Commission**

We broadly support the report from the Scottish Broadcasting Commission and the aspiration for a new digital channel for Scotland. stv itself has suggested such a channel to both the SBC and Ofcom and is keen to play a central role in delivering this, avoiding the need for duplicate infrastructure. However, any new channel should not be at the expense of existing broadcasters, in particular stv. Our focus is on the here-and-now and finding ways to safeguard our valued PSB services, the skilled workforce behind stv and the contribution we make to the Scottish economy.

**ITV**

In laying out its position, ITV plc has called for a single UK wide licence which would not be in Scotland's interests and has also claimed it "subsidises" the three independent licensees, stv, UTV and Channel TV to the tune of £25 million pounds a year. stv strongly refutes this allegation and is working with an independent third party to work out the value of Channel 3 network benefits which flow back to ITV plc which they have overlooked in their limited analysis, and which we estimate to be in excess of £75m per annum.

**stv's position**

The key elements of stv's stance on PSB are:

1. that we continue to be a PSB holding discrete licence(s) for Scotland, which should include the Border region, as part of a wider UK Network building on our 50 year heritage;
2. that our news programmes continue at current levels, but that in future, as the cost of PSB outweighs the benefits of holding our licences, news would be partly funded through (modest) public intervention, around £5m annually;
3. we have flexibility to provide non-news programming on a commercial basis;
4. we are awarded Independent Producer Status, recognising we are outside the ITV commissioning process and making it easier for other channels, particularly BBC and Channel 4 to commission production from Scotland, and;
5. that we are committed to playing a central role in any proposed Scottish Channel, leveraging our content, news resources, infrastructure and most importantly our audience through cross promotion.

I hope this background is useful and that you are able to support stv as Scotland's only commercial PSB provider. We are fighting hard to safeguard our existence and in turn the media sector in Scotland as a whole. We are asking that you write to Ed Richards, Chief Executive of Ofcom to confirm that:

- the needs of Scotland are recognised as different from England and its regions;
- the current contribution from stv and our future vision be recognised;
- a "one size fits all" London-centric ITV for the whole of the UK is inappropriate;
- Ofcom's evolutionary model is the only one of the three alternatives under consideration which merits further consideration;

If you do need any further information, please do not hesitate to call me directly on 0141 300 3066 and I will be delighted to answer any questions you may have.

Following our final submission to Ofcom on 4<sup>th</sup> December we will be holding a breakfast briefing for MSPs at Scottish Parliament, hosted by Margo Macdonald. The breakfast briefing will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> December in the Members' Dining Room from 8.15am to 9.30am. I enclose your invitation and hope you feel able to engage in this important debate and I look forward to seeing you on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Yours sincerely



Rob Woodward  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



**Invitation to a Breakfast Briefing  
stv, the future of Scottish Broadcasting  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008  
At The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh  
Members' Dining Room  
0815hrs – 0930hrs  
Hosted by: Margo Macdonald, MSP**

**RSVP**

**NAME: Alex Salmond**

I will be able to attend *stv, the future of Scottish Broadcasting*

I have the following dietary requirements:

.....

.....

I regret that I will be unable to attend *stv, the future of Scottish Broadcasting*

**Please RSVP by:-**

**Mail to:**

Mrs Angela Burnett  
stv Studios  
Pacific Quay  
Glasgow  
G51 1PQ

**email to:-**

angela.burnett@stv.com

**Telephone:**

ASIS

- info note  
- cc Geoff  
- fast track  
MCW (GF - FM reply)  
13/1

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9<sup>th</sup> January 2009

12 JAN 2009

The Rt Hon Alex Salmond, MSP  
The Scottish Government  
5th Floor  
St Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
PM OFFICE

Dear Alex

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me and my colleagues yesterday and I hope you found our dialogue as interesting and productive as we did.

stv is committed to embracing The Homecoming this year and I am delighted that we will be working closely with The Scottish Government on a variety of high quality, high profile projects which will have real resonance with audiences throughout Scotland and will also engage the Diaspora across the world. Alan Clements will liaise with Geoff Aberdeen about the detail of The Homecoming projects.

As the deliberations on public service broadcasting continue, we are working up more detail on a lower cost alternative for a new Scottish digital channel in which we will utilise our existing infrastructure and our ability to promote the new network to our existing audience. We are also developing our thinking towards an integrated Scottish, national and international news bulletin and will come back to you on both these areas in the next couple of months. We also touched on our aspirations to increase the amount of Scottish content on our schedule and we will be announcing more detail on new commissions shortly, watch this space!

More immediately I will update you on my meeting with Lord Carter next week in advance of your next meeting with Ed Richards at the end of January. I will also write separately to Linda Fabiani to introduce our commercial director David Connolly to explore how we can incorporate our innovative thinking around television exposure for the benefit of the Government. As I mentioned the success of stv's support for the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service is a good example of how television can play a positive role in public service communications and David is very keen to explore other possibilities.

These are critical times for the future of public service broadcasting in general and stv in particular and I very much appreciate your engagement and look forward to continuing our dialogue.

Yours sincerely

[Signature box]

Rob Woodward  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AS16

**Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP**  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



Mr Rob Woodward  
Chief Executive  
STV Group plc  
120 Govan Road  
Glasgow  
G51 1PQ

Our ref: 2009/0001294

31st January 2009

Dear Mr Woodward

Thank you for your letter of 9 January about our meeting on 8 January to discuss stv and Homecoming.

I am delighted that stv is keen to be involved in Homecoming. I look forward to hearing of progress.

I know that Ofcom's Final Statement and Recommendations on Public Service Broadcasting recognises the value placed on stv by viewers and that stv is keen to remain part of the public service broadcasting landscape in Scotland. I am sure that this recognition has been welcomed by you and the whole of stv. As we have indicated in the past, the Scottish Government recognises the importance of choice for viewers and the part that stv can play in providing this. It is important that we continue to work together to build the Scottish broadcasting industry and secure Scotland's fair share of the UK's network spend.

My meeting with Ed Richards will now take place next week. I was grateful for your letter of 16 January about your meeting with Lord Carter. I very much hope that your work with Ofcom and ITV plc to develop a better relationship between the Channel 3 licence holders is successful. Please keep me informed of developments.

*Alex Salmond*

**ALEX SALMOND**

FAST TRACK L  
cc Geoff,  
Neil 4/9



31<sup>ST</sup> August 2009

Mr Alex Salmond MSP  
Scottish National Party  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

FM OFFICE

Dear Alex

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back and trust you had an enjoyable summer.

It has been a busy period over the summer months for STV and broadcasting in general and I would like to update you on our progress.

Last Thursday we announced our 2009 interim results to the City. Despite the unprecedented macro economic conditions STV is performing broadly in line with our targets and delivering on our strategy to become *Scotland's Broadcaster of Choice*. However, the economic realities of the downturn have had a dramatic impact on our business. In line with the market our Broadcasting revenues are down 21% in comparison with last year or £10m. We are hopeful that during the second half of 2009 the rate of decline will abate and we are confident that the huge steps we have taken as self-help through this period of economic downturn position STV positively for future growth.

As I outlined at our Holyrood briefing in June, we have implemented our programming strategy during 2009 identifying opportunities in the schedule to produce more home grown relevant and topical programming which will appeal to a Scottish audience and strengthen the STV brand.

By implementing this strategy we have chosen not to simply be ITV1 in Scotland but to grow the STV identity, develop a schedule that contains the best of the network material and which is complemented by strong home grown productions and programming that will appeal to a more diverse and wide ranging audience. We are also committed to growing the amount of television production in Scotland and our programme strategy facilitates this, with hundreds of hours of material in production during 2009 alone.

Over the summer period you may have enjoyed *Made in Scotland*, *The Scots who Fought Franco* and topical documentaries on Susan Boyle and Alex Ferguson. Our next series, *Scotland Revealed*, a view of Scotland from the air, starts on September 17 and we are also preparing for *The Greatest Scot*, a search for the one individual who has made the greatest contribution to Scotland as voted for by STV viewers and Daily Record readers. This is an ambitious piece of landmark television, a fitting finale to our programmes themed around *Homecoming*, with the announcement being made on the evening of St Andrews Day.

The Scottish Parliament itself featured in additional programming carried by STV. We broadcast live coverage of the Queen's visit marking 10 years of Devolution and also made space in our schedule to carry live the statement and subsequent debate over the release of Abdel-Basset-Mohamed-al-Megrahi.

At the beginning of the summer the Digital Britain report was published . The report contains a number of significant recommendations which, if implemented, will have a positive impact on the creative industries in Scotland and STV in particular. Most significantly, Scotland has been selected as one of three Channel 3 news service pilot areas, implemented in 2010, until the introduction of contestable funds in the longer term, by 2013. This interim pilot arrangement must provide adequate funding to enable STV viewers in Scotland to continue to enjoy high quality, impartial news with its unique localised coverage as a strong counterpoint to the BBC. Absent this public funding, STV will be forced to scale back the scope of its news operations and our clearly stated preference is to maintain and build our news rather than have to reduce it. However, it is vital that the funded news pilot becomes reality in Scotland if we are to avoid a dramatic retrenchment in our coverage.

We recognise broadcasting is a reserved matter, however, it is imperative that funding for news is secured. We will be highly focused in this over forthcoming months to ensure this is secured in advance of our PSB licence going into deficit in 2010. Your support in assisting us achieve this outcome is of critical importance to ensure plurality of news for Scottish viewers and for broadcasting within Scotland.

I trust this update is useful. I would be delighted to pick up on any points you would like to discuss in more depth. Please do get in touch with any questions.

Yours sincerely



Rob Woodward  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AS18

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP  
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
T: 0845 774 1741



Mr Rob Woodward  
Chief Executive  
Stv Group plc  
120 Govan Road  
Glasgow  
G51 1PQ



Our ref: 2009/0027853  
30 September 2009

Dear Mr Woodward

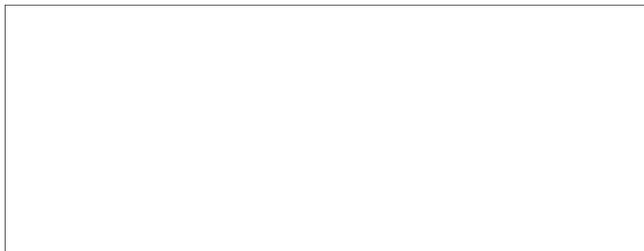
Thank you for taking the time on Thursday 24 September to update me on the current dispute between stv and ITV. I found our discussion very helpful, and I hope that you will continue to keep me and Michael Russell, the Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution, well informed of significant developments in relation to this issue.

I am also grateful to you for your letter dated 31 August about stv's activities over the summer months and its plans for the future. I hope to see *The Greatest Scot* when it is shown later in the year, and I was pleased to note your live coverage of the Queen's visit to the Scottish Parliament, and the statement and debate relating to the release of Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi.

I am aware that you have been in touch with Michael Russell recently, and that you spoke to him on 17 September. I am sure that this meeting will have been extremely beneficial, particularly in allowing you to discuss in more detail the *Digital Britain* report's proposal to provide support for the Channel 3 news service in Scotland.

Thank you again for keeping me up to date with the developments at stv.

Yours for Scotland



ALEX SALMOND

AS19



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5 October 2009

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Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP MP  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

05 OCT 2009

Another Minister

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6/10

Dear Alex

**Invitation to Evening Reception  
STV – The Future of Scottish Broadcasting  
Friday, 23 October in Inverness at 5.30pm, hosted by Danny Alexander MP**

I am writing to invite you to attend an evening reception at The Kingsmills Hotel, Culcabock Road, Inverness, IV2 3LP hosted by Danny Alexander MP and STV on Friday, 23 October at 5.30pm until 7pm.

This is a pivotal time in defining the future of broadcasting and the creative industries within Scotland and across the UK and much remains at stake to ensure that future provision of public service broadcasting in Scotland is secured. As a devolved nation, our audiences in Scotland have particular requirements which must be considered as future models of public service broadcasting are defined.

Following on from the Digital Britain report, published earlier this year, Ofcom and DCMS are now working on three pilot schemes, including one in Scotland, to test the application of public funding of news on Channel 3 services to continue to provide plurality beyond the BBC.

STV has recently launched its vision for news going forward. We propose a new, one hour bulletin at 6pm every weekday which would combine UK national and international stories with Scottish and local material. Under our proposals, there would be an improved service for the Highlands and Islands with a new, dedicated, local bulletin produced and presented out of Inverness.

At STV we have delivered on our promise to put content at the heart of our business and invest in a programme schedule based on content which is relevant for Scottish audiences.

I would welcome having the opportunity to provide you with an update on our vision for the future provision of public service broadcasting in Scotland to ensure that we continue to deliver the high quality PSB service to our Scottish audiences.

- 2 -

In addition, I will provide you with an update on our future programme schedule and update you on the continuing growth of our digital business, including the imminent launch of 300 locally targeted websites across Scotland.

I would be grateful if you could complete the attached RSVP form and return it to my PA, Angela Burnett.

Yours sincerely



**Rob Woodward**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



**STV – The Future of Scottish Broadcasting  
Friday, 23 October 2009 at 5.30pm  
at The Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness  
Hosted by: Danny Alexander MP**

I will be able to attend STV's *The Future of Scottish Broadcasting* reception

I regret that I will be unable to attend STV's *The Future of Scottish Broadcasting* reception

**Name: Alex Salmond MSP MP**

**Constituency/Region: Banff and Buchan**

If any of your Parliamentary staff wish to attend please list their names below:

.....  
.....

I have the following dietary requirements:

.....

Dress Code: Lounge Suits

**Please respond by:-**

Mail to:

Angela Burnett  
STV Studios  
Pacific Quay  
Glasgow  
G51 1PQ

Email to:

angela.burnett

Telephone: