

BBC Trust response to 2009 MacTaggart Lecture

Chairman of the BBC Trust, Sir Michael Lyons, said:

“British broadcasting is admired around the world. Its diversity of broadcasters and their variety of funding is a strength and not a weakness. But there are current problems and they need to be addressed.

Our starting point is what is in the interests of the public and the BBC agrees with James Murdoch's analysis that we need to trust them. And the public tell us that they, in turn, trust the BBC and value the wide range of services we provide.

The BBC has no choice but to serve all audiences, but that doesn't mean that it can or should seek to squeeze out other providers.

We have to be careful not to reduce the whole of broadcasting to some simple economic transactions. The BBC's public purposes stress the importance of the well-tested principles of educating and informing, and an impartial contribution to debate in the UK.

As to the BBC Trust, let me underline that it is here to strengthen the BBC for the benefit of licence fee payers, not to emasculate it on behalf of commercial interests.”