

MR WICKS

Alistair McAlpine telephoned this morning to warn me about a possible problem in connection with a vacancy on the BBC Board of Governors.

I understand that appointments to the Board of Governors can only be made when the Privy Council is sitting, and this means, for the immediate future, the months of July and October. I believe that Stuart Young is not well and it is just conceivable that he would have to depart or disappear between July and October. If this happened, the Governorship would fall, temporarily at least, to be exercised by a deputy, who would be one of the existing Governors. The next two in line as deputies are both highly unsuitable from a Governor point of view, so Lord McAlpine alleges. He is pressing, therefore, first that the vacancy be filled in July, which means getting agreement on the candidate (I understand the Home Office and the BBC are at odds over their respective nominees), and also sorting out who would deputise for Stuart Young. I should be glad if you could pursue the problems which Lord McAlpine has outlined.

MA

MICHAEL ALISON  
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