

cc NO  
Broadcasters



HOME OFFICE  
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LONDON SW1H 9AT

12 April 1983

Prime Minister 2

Dear John,

MUS 15/4

BBC PAY

Thank you for your letter of 5 April in which you sought some further information for the Prime Minister on BBC pay negotiations.

The BBC at present pay their London staff a flat rate of £930 London Weighting per annum. They have offered an increase of £100, which the union side will probably accept. The resultant figure of £1,030 pa compares with the average figures of inner and outer London Weighting of £1,220 (Cable and Wireless), £1,117 (Civil Service), £1,127 (British Telecom), £1,261 (British Airways), £1,230 (CEGB), and £1,214 (Water Supply): these figures have been payable for at least nine months.

The proportion of staff of the Corporation working in London has increased over the years with the growth of television, so that now over two thirds of the BBC's staff of nearly 28,000 are eligible for London Weighting allowance. But it has always been deployed nationwide and it would be difficult to claim that the BBC's basic levels of pay, unlike those of other organisations, were established in relation to London levels only.

We do not maintain detailed information on conditions of service, and cannot offer detailed comments on relative job security, other than to say that qualified labour is fairly scarce in the broadcasting world as a whole, and likely to continue to be so with the growth of cable and DBS. The ITCA settlement in 1982 was a 2 year one, with the second year being tied to the RPI. The outcome of this in July of this year, excluding London Weighting, is thus likely to be about 5%, compared with the BBC's offer of 5.3% on basic rates (which they equate to 5% of the total pay bill). On the other hand, the ITCA settlement last year was 1½% higher than the BBC one, and their London Weighting figure was a further £300 per annum ahead. Between 1979 and 1982, ITCA basic rates rose by 73.4%; the IBA's by 62.4%; Independent Radio's by up to 76%; and the BBC's by 48%.

While artists employed by the BBC work on a contract basis, producers, directors and technicians are generally members of BBC staff. A BBC Senior Television Engineer is paid about 32% less than his ITV counterpart; a Film Editor about 20% less; a Film Cameraman about 40% less; and an Assistant Produced over 70% less. The lowest paid craftsmen, riggers and drivers are over 60% behind their independent sector analogues.

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John Coles, Esq

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I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to Members of E(PSP) and the Secretary of State for Scotland, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours truly,

Tony Rawsthorne

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BROADCASTING

TV license fees

July 1979.

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