

CONFIDENTIAL



JFA

cc BG

cc LPO
HMT
WO
CDLO
DTI
CWO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

11 February 1987

Dear Colin,

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BBC LICENCE MATTERS

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 9 February about the possibility of sponsored programmes on the BBC. She has also seen the Chancellor's minute of 21 January.

The Prime Minister has noted that the Home Secretary intends to consult colleagues in due course about the implications of sponsored programmes.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of MISC 128, Geoffrey Podger (Department of Health and Social Security), Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office) and Steven Wood (Lord Privy Seal's Office).

Yours sincerely,

David Norgrove

(David Norgrove)

C. R. Miller, Esq.,
Home Office

CONFIDENTIAL

✓

CCBG



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

Prime Minister²
for information¹.

9 February 1987

Dear David,

DBS
10/2

ex-Rep. MS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BBC LICENCE MATTERS

Thank you for your letter of 16 January conveying the Prime Minister's response to the suggestion that any change in the current restriction on the use of sponsored programmes by the BBC would re-open the question of the level of the television licence fee. The Home Secretary has also seen the Chancellor's minute of 21 January on this question, and he has asked me to write explaining how he sees matters being taken forward.

The announcement the Home Secretary made on 14 January, about the indexation of the licence fee in future, was made on the basis that the BBC does not receive money from sponsored programmes, and that was of course the basis on which it was agreed by MISC 128. It was only after the decision was taken - but before it was announced - that the BBC came to the Home Secretary to raise the question whether the BBC should be allowed to show programmes made by independent producers with credit being given to those who had sponsored the programme. The Home Secretary felt that this was a welcome sign that they are prepared to take a more open minded and commercial attitude to these matters. It did, however, raise a number of new questions, as the Chancellor's minute points out, and the Home Secretary has asked for further information from the BBC. In the light of their response the Home Secretary will wish to consult colleagues about the implications - including the possible impact on sponsorship for the arts and for sport - and he will do this as soon as he has heard further from the BBC.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of MISC 128, Tony Laurance (DHSS), Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office) and Stephen Wood (Lord Privy Seal's Office).

Yours,

Colin

C R MILLER



BROADCASTING : TV Licence fees pt 3.