Westminster Media Forum Keynote Seminar: Public service content - funding and the changing scope of the PSBs

Date: Wednesday 10th March 2010

Venue: Hall of India & Pakistan, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

Draft agenda subject to change

8.45 - 9.00 Registration

9.00 - 9.05 Chairman's opening remarks
Lord Birt of Liverpool, former Director-General, BBC and former Strategy Adviser to the Prime Minister

9.05 - 9.35 The changing nature of public service content in the multi-platform era
Themes: The challenges of multi-channel, multi-platform viewing for the effective delivery of public service content. In what ways will provision of public service content change, and how will the landscape look in the future? Are the nature and requirements of public service content changing?
Caroline Thomson, Chief Operating Officer, BBC
Questions and comments from the floor

9.35 - 10.25 Role and scope of the UK's Public Service Broadcasters
Themes: What should be the role and scope of public service broadcasters in the UK, and what should be their priorities? How will the scope of the individual PSBs further diverge? What is the impact of PSBs entering into commercial areas beyond their core remit? Should limitations be placed on non broadcast and commercial activities of publicly funded PSBs?
Mark Oliver, Chief Executive, Oliver & Ohlbaum
Dr Damian Tambini, Senior Lecturer, Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science
David Wheeldon, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, BSkyB
Professor Sylvia Harvey, Voice of the Listener and Viewer and Visiting Professor, Institute of Communication Studies, University of Leeds
Questions and comments from the floor

10.25 - 10.55 The view from the Conservative Party
Ed Vaizey MP, Shadow Minister for Culture and the Creative Industries
Questions and comments from the floor

10.55 - 11.00 Chairman's closing remarks
Lord Birt of Liverpool, former Director-General, BBC and former Strategy Adviser to the Prime Minister

11.00 - 11.25 Coffee

11.25 - 11.30 Chairman's opening remarks
Rt Rev The Lord Bishop of Manchester, Member, Lords Communications Committee

11.30 - 11.40 Public service content and the role of Channel 4
Jon Gisby, Director, Future Media and Technology, Channel 4

11.40 - 12.15 Online public service content - the role of the PSBs
Themes: What are the strengths and weaknesses of delivering PSC via the web? What are the options to ensure plurality in the delivery of online public service content? How will the Digital Economy Bill's proposals for Channel 4 to deliver PSC online work in practice? How might Channel 4 offerings differ from the BBC's, and what would be the effect on competition between the two and more widely? What are the new and emerging delivery methods for PSB? Is there a need for mandated online PSC? Do online offerings of the Public Service Broadcaster hinder the commercial activities of others and does this need to be addressed?
Anthony Lilley, Chief Creative Officer and Chief Executive Officer, Magic Lantern
Jane Burton, Head of Content and Creative Director, Tate Media
Jon Watts, Co-Founder, MTM London
Andrew Chitty, Managing Director, Illumina Digital
Questions and comments from the floor with Jon Gisby, Director, Future Media and Technology, Channel 4

12.15 - 13.10 Future funding options for public service content
Themes: How do the emerging proposals for the funding of public service content compare? Should the licence fee be top sliced, set aside for PSB production across the channels or are there other options? How would mooted mergers involving Channel 4 and others affect the quality and plurality of PSC? How will the scope of the different PSBs further diverge based on their financial models?
Professor Steven Barnett, Professor of Communications, School of Media, Art and Design, University of Westminster
John Tate, Director of Policy and Strategy, BBC
David Graham, Chief Executive Officer, Attentional
Magnus Brooke, Director, Policy and Regulatory Affairs, ITV
Martin Le Jeune, Chair, Centre for Policy Studies Broadcasting Group and Director, Open Road
Martin Stott, Head of Regulatory Affairs, Five
Questions and comments from the floor

13.10 - 13.15 Chairman's and Westminster Media Forum's closing remarks
Rt Rev The Lord Bishop of Manchester, Member, Lords Communications Committee
Peter van Gelder, Director, Westminster Media Forum