



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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John Paul

Broadcasting White Paper

As you know the Foreign Secretary is not a member of MISC 128, but has attended in the past when the agenda has included matters with implications for foreign affairs. He would like to attend the meeting on 6 June which we have been told will discuss a Home Office paper on tendering procedures for Channels 3 and 5, and the future structure of Channel 4.

One of the areas that the meeting will clearly discuss will be maintaining the quality of British broadcasting. This is the Foreign Secretary's key concern. Our news and current affairs programming has a high reputation around the world. British broadcasting causes its fair share of problems for our dealings with foreign countries, but overall it is an asset to us. Our entertainment programmes are a profitable and influential export. There is therefore a strong foreign affairs interest in ensuring that the quality of our broadcasting can be maintained and improved under the new proposals.

I am copying this letter to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Townsend
R N Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

Paul Gray Esq
10 Downing Street