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House of Lords  
London SW1A 0PW

29 June 2017

Dame Patricia Hodgson  
Chair  
Ofcom  
Riverside House  
2a Southwark Bridge Road  
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**Re: Response to the Ofcom Consultation - Holding the BBC to account for the delivery of its mission and public purposes**

I am writing with a suggestion regarding Ofcom's performance framework to measure the BBC's delivery of its mission as set out in the 2016 Charter.

While the conditions in the draft BBC Operating Licence generally appear to be proportionate, I understand that the performance framework is still being developed. I would like to suggest that one of the measurements in the performance framework for the BBC should be the volume of new international content other than news that the BBC broadcasts on radio and television.

If this content were measured annually it would be an indicator of how well the BBC is delivering Purpose 1 of the Charter which requires the BBC to broadcast *current affairs and factual programming to build people's understanding of all parts of the UK and the wider world*. International factual content is included as a "high level objective" for Purpose 1 in the consultation document and therefore the volume of such content should be measured in order to assess whether the BBC is achieving the objectives set out by Ofcom.

I believe that engaging a range of audiences with international issues cannot be left to news alone because news necessarily tends to focus on dramatic, often negative, events and does not have the air-time to provide context and background to fully inform the audience. If the volume of international content were measured, it would also be useful in assessing the delivery of Purpose 3, the distinctiveness purpose, because international factual and current affairs content is one of the most distinctive aspects of BBC output.

I do hope that you will be able to consider this suggestion and share it with colleagues. I will send this letter to the consultation email address as well to ensure that those running the consultation are aware of my view.

Yours sincerely,