



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

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22 November 2021

Iain Stewart MP
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Our Ref:
MC2021/18905/AL

Dear Iain,

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 October on behalf of several of your constituents, about the future of Channel 4. I am replying as the minister responsible for media and broadcasting policy.

I agree wholeheartedly that Channel 4 is one of this country's greatest broadcasting assets. As I recently outlined to the Lords Communications and Digital Committee during my evidence session for their inquiry into the future of Channel 4, this Government recognises that the need for public service broadcasting (PSB) remains as strong as ever. For me, this is because high-quality PSB content that authentically reflects British experiences on screen is not only important for audiences across the whole of the UK, but also plays a crucial role in projecting our nation's values on the global stage.

It is because Channel 4 is so important - and because the media landscape is changing - that the Government must think long-term about the challenges ahead to make sure that it has the capital it needs to continue to contribute to the UK's success in public service broadcasting for years to come.

Your constituent raises concerns over the future of Channel 4's support to the creative industries across the UK. Channel 4's ability to work with independent producers and its network of relationships across the UK creative economy are strengths to be celebrated and maintained into Channel 4's future. These strengths are not at odds with private ownership. These are things the Government believes would be attractive to potential buyers, and that they would look to strengthen and nurture. A thriving, sustainable Channel 4 would offer the best prospects for it to continue to support the UK's creative economy.

The Government has consulted on the best ownership model to support Channel 4 for years to come. The public consultation ran for 10 weeks before closing on 14 September. The Government is currently analysing the views and evidence received from a broad range of stakeholders to inform its policy-making and final decision.

Thank you again for writing to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on this important issue. I hope that my response is helpful and your constituent is reassured about the future of Channel 4.

With Best Wishes,

Julia Lopez MP
Minister of State
Minister for Media, Data and Digital Infrastructure

