



On 15 September 2016 the government published a draft Royal Charter and Framework Agreement. This is one in a series of information sheets, explaining some of the key policies contained in the drafts in more detail.

Background

The BBC is governed by a Royal Charter, rather than an Act of Parliament, to underline the BBC's independence from the government of the day. An accompanying Framework Agreement recognises the BBC's editorial independence. The Charter and Agreement are drawn up by the government and, together, they set out how the corporation should be run, structured and funded and what its purpose should be.

The government's policy

The white paper set out the intention to establish an 11-year Charter to 2027, to separate Charter Review from the political cycle and enhance the BBC's independence. This Charter will be the first to include a process for the next Charter Review process and to formalise a role for the devolved administrations in that process.

The Government will carry out a mid-term review of the Charter, focussing on governance and regulatory arrangements. This will give the opportunity to ensure that the significant changes to governance and regulation in this Charter are working effectively and that action can be taken before the end of the Charter if improvement is needed, rather than waiting for the next Charter Review. The mid-term review is not a Charter Review and so will not look at the BBC's mission, purpose or the method by which it is funded. [In addition, it will happen separately to the next licence fee settlement in order to maintain separation between the two reviews.]

The provisions in the Charter and Agreement

Charter

Article 2 sets out the term of the Charter, setting the length of this Charter at 11 years - the White Paper made clear that, given the priority the government places on protecting the independence of the BBC, the next Charter period will be for 11 years, to 31 December 2027

Article 57 sets out the detail and the arrangements for a mid-term health check, focussing on governance and regulatory arrangements, to ensure that the new regulatory regime has bedded in as

For more information, please visit www.gov.uk/government/collections/bbc-charter-review.

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expected. Given the problems with the Trust model it is important that governance can be examined during the life of the Charter rather than allowing these problems to ferment over 11 years.

Article 59 sets out a process for Charter Review for the first time in a BBC Charter. This includes the requirement for the Charter to be laid before and debated in both Houses of Parliament and the devolved legislatures.