



BBC | Trust

Getting the best out of the BBC for licence fee payers

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Governance framework

The Charter

The Royal Charter is the constitutional basis for the BBC. It sets out the public purposes of the BBC, guarantees its independence, and outlines the duties of the Trust and the Executive Board. The current Charter runs until 31 December 2016.

[The Charter, PDF \(260KB\)](#)

[The Charter, text only \(76KB\)](#)

The Agreement

The Agreement with the Secretary of State sits alongside the Charter. It provides detail on many of the topics outlined in the Charter and also covers the BBC's funding and its regulatory duties. The Agreement is an important constitutional document because together with the Charter, it establishes the BBC's independence from the Government.

The current Agreement was laid in Parliament in July 2006.

[The Agreement, PDF \(260KB\)](#)

[The Agreement, text only \(76KB\)](#)

March 2010 amendment

The Agreement was amended in March 2010 to reflect the changes made to UK law as a result of the implementation of the Audio Visual Media Services directive.

[Amendment to the Agreement, March 2010, PDF \(278KB\)](#)

[Amendment to the Agreement, March 2010, text only \(5KB\)](#)

February 2011 amendment

The Agreement was amended on 11 February 2011 to allow the BBC to use money from the Licence Fee to fund the BBC World Service.

[Amendment to the Agreement, February 2011, PDF \(278KB\)](#)

[Amendment to the Agreement, February 2011, text only \(5KB\)](#)

2010 licence fee settlement

On 21 October 2010, the BBC agreed a new licence fee settlement with the Government. Further information about this can be found [here](#).

Protocols

Protocols are formal documents which set out how the BBC Trust will carry out its functions as required by the BBC's Royal Charter and Framework Agreement. Protocols set out the Trust's processes and the respective roles and responsibilities of the the BBC Trust and Executive Board.

The protocols have been divided into the following categories. They are available from these pages.

- A. Public purposes
- B. Standards and Strategy
- C. The BBC's Services
- D. Accountability
- E. Compliance and Oversight
- F. Trust Operations

Policies, Codes and Guidance

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