

"Working for quality
and diversity in
British broadcasting"



PO Box 401, Gravesend, Kent DA12 9FY
Telephone: 01474 338711 / 01474 338716
Fax: 01474 325440

Founded in 1983 by Jocelyn Hay CBE

E-mail: info@vlv.org.uk
Web: www.vlv.org.uk

News Release

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Immediate

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Risking Quality in Times of Change – What future for Public Service Broadcasting?

Tuesday, 12 April 2011,

Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1

Risking Quality in Times of Change – VLV's 28th Spring Conference in London on 12 April will address a range of topical issues including the future of BBC News, World Service and journalism in the light of the new responsibilities and cuts in funding announced in the 2010 licence fee settlement. It will also look ahead to the new Communications Bill promised in 2012

Programme

10.30: Opening session: ***Update on Radio***, speakers tbc.

11.15 : **Helen Boaden, Director, BBC News**, chaired by
Stewart Purvis, Professor of TV Journalism, City University

1.45: ***Presentation of VLV's 2010 Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting***

2.45 - 3.45: **Roger Bolton, Presenter, Feedback, Radio 4**, will chair a panel
discussion: ***Preparing for the new Communications Bill***. Speakers tbc

4pm – 5pm: ***VLV Members' Forum***

Helen Boaden has been Director of BBC News, since 2004. She will shortly join the BBC's Executive Board; her brief covers all BBC News Services from Local Radio to the World Service.

Stewart Purvis is Professor of Journalism at City University; he was formerly CEO of ITN and Ofcom Partner for Content and Standards.

Commenting, VLV Honorary President, Jocelyn Hay said:

"This conference will provide one of the first opportunities for listeners and viewers to hear and question a key BBC executive on the implications for the BBC of the 2010 Licence Fee Settlement and the new responsibilities it lays on the BBC - and hence on licence fee payers - to fund those previously funded by Government.

With a new Communications Bill promised in 2012, the conference will also consider changes announced in the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review, including the weakening of the remit and powers of the media regulator Ofcom, powers assumed by the Secretary of State and the transfer of Ofcom's Consumer Panel to Citizens' Advice without any supporting resources. As Consumer Focus (which two years earlier subsumed the National Consumer Council) has also been abolished and its duties passed to Citizens' Advice without any supporting resources, VLV is now the only organisation

dedicated to representing the citizen and consumer interests in broadcasting and new media. The implications for British democracy and culture are immense. VLV is therefore providing this early opportunity for the public to join in this important debate prior to consultations on the new Communications Bill.”

End

Note to Editors:

Reporters and Photographers welcome – Please ask for a pass.

Tickets: VLV Members £45 (including buffet lunch); £33 (excluding buffet lunch)

Corporate: £210 (including buffet lunch);

Voluntary and Academic Organisations: £105 (including buffet lunch);

Students: £15 (excluding buffet lunch); £30 (including buffet lunch)

Tickets include refreshments, lunch (as indicated), documentation and attendance at the Awards Ceremony. Tickets also include VAT

VAT Reg No: GB 835 5365 14

For further details and tickets please contact Linda.Forbes@VLV.org.uk or phone 01474 338711 or 338716