

"Working for quality
and diversity in
British broadcasting"



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News Release
Immediate

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**BBC News, World Service and Radio Services
Plus Preparing for the New Communications Bill**
On agenda for VLV Spring Conference

Tuesday, 12 April 2011 10.30am – 3.45pm
at The Geological Society, Piccadilly, London W1

Risking Quality in Times of Change – What future for Public Service Broadcasting?
VLV's 28th Spring Conference in London on Tuesday, 12 April will provide an opportunity for members of the public to hear and question key BBC executives and opinion formers on a range of current issues including the future of BBC News and journalism, the World Service and the BBC's Radio services. How will the BBC decide its priorities following the new demands recently placed on it and at the same time cope with the cuts in its funding? The Conference will also look ahead to the Green Paper this summer prior to a new Communications Bill in 2012.

Conference Programme

10.30: Opening session: ***Update on Radio,***

Speaker: **David Liddiment**, BBC Trustee

Chair: **Gillian Reynolds**, Radio Critic, The Daily Telegraph

11.15 :

Speaker: **Helen Boaden**, Director, BBC News,

Chair: **Stewart Purvis**, Professor of TV Journalism, City University

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

2.45-3.45 ***Preparing for the new Communications Bill.***

Speakers: **Stephen Whittle**, Chair, Broadcast Equality & Training Regulator, former
Controller, BBC Editorial Standards

Roger Graef, Criminologist and Film Maker, Director, Films of Record

David Elstein, Chair, Open Democracy and Broadcast Policy Group, former CEO
Channel 5 and Head of Programmes, BSkyB

Chair: **Roger Bolton**, Presenter, Radio 4's *Feedback*

4pm–5pm: ***VLV Members' Forum***

Helen Boaden has been Director of BBC News since 2004. This will be her first major speech after joining the BBC's Executive Board. Her brief covers BBC Journalism and 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.

Stephen Whittle is Chair of the Broadcast Equality and Training Regulator and former Controller, BBC Editorial Standards

David Elstein is Chair of the Broadcast Policy Group and Open Democracy, a former CEO of Channel 5 and Head of Programmes at BSkyB

Roger Graef is a distinguished Criminologist & Film Maker, Founder & Director, Films of Record.

Roger Bolton is an independent television producer and a former Editor of the BBC's Panorama Programme. He was also a presenter of Channel 4's *Right to Reply*

Gillian Reynolds is Radio Critic of *The Daily Telegraph*

Commenting, VLV Honorary President, Jocelyn Hay said:

"This conference will provide one of the first opportunities for listeners and viewers to question a key BBC executive on the impact of cuts recently announced by the Foreign Office to the funding and services of the World Service, and to other BBC services following the 2010 Licence Fee Settlement.

The conference will also look ahead to the Green Paper this summer announced by the Culture Secretary prior to a new Communications Bill in 2012. With the abolition of Consumer Focus and Ofcom's Consumer Panel, VLV is now the only organisation dedicated to representing the interests of listeners and viewers across the full range of broadcasting issues. We are providing this and other opportunities for the public to make their views known on these important issues.'

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. All prices quoted also include VAT

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