

*"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
Immediate**

1st September 2011
12/11

British Broadcasting in the Public Service – What do we Really, Really, Want?

Saturday, 22nd October 2011, 2 - 4pm at the

Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester - *just behind the Town Hall*
Admission Free, doors open 1.45pm

Chaired by: The Rt. Rev. Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Manchester
(until recently the Church's media spokesperson in the House of Lords)

Speakers will include: Mark Covell, Head of External Affairs, BBC North
Sophie Jones, Head of Corporate Affairs, Channel 4

The next twelve months will see UK television go fully digital, the BBC cut its services to meet the new obligations laid on it by last year's licence fee settlement, and Channel 4 and ITV cope with the effects of a growing economic downturn. Meanwhile the Government is planning a new Communications Bill in 2013. In the face of such unprecedented change, can we expect our television to continue to be regulated as a public service that puts the interests of its viewers above all else? How much can the ordinary viewer and licence fee payer affect decisions about the future of our broadcast services? How much will they have to pay to enjoy them? This event provides an opportunity to find out.

Commenting, VLV's Honorary President, Jocelyn Hay CBE said:

"This is a crucially important time for our public service broadcasters, especially the BBC, Channel 4 and ITV, as they face both cuts in funding and increased competition from hundreds of new, unregulated satellite and cable channels in a fully digital Britain. Virtually all that we have taken for granted is at stake, including the principle of impartiality in broadcast news, and a majority of original, high quality, UK produced programmes for children. This conference is one of a series that VLV is holding in different parts of the UK to inform and encourage public debate about two of the most powerful influences on British culture and democracy. We expect a large turnout and welcome all shades of opinion."

Voice of the Listener & Viewer (VLV) is an independent, non-profit-making association, free from political, commercial and sectarian affiliations, working for quality and diversity in British broadcasting. VLV represents the interests of listeners and viewers as citizens and consumers across the full range of broadcasting issues. VLV is concerned with the structures, regulation, funding and institutions that underpin the British broadcasting system. VLV has no relationship with Mediawatch, founded by the late Mrs. Mary Whitehouse. VLV does not handle complaints.

Further information from: Linda Forbes on 01474 338 711 or 01474 338 716