

PRESS RELEASE: for immediate release  
31 October 2011

21/11

## **Public Service Broadcasting under Siege?**

VLV's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Conference

**Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011,**

10.30am – 3.30pm

Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1

**VLV's Autumn Conference on 30 November** gives members a chance to hear directly from some of the people making decisions about the future of the BBC and the media in this country. The BBC Trust has put out ***Delivering Quality First*** to public consultation and we still await the coming Green Paper and Communications Bill. **Director-General Mark Thompson** said that DQF "is a plan which puts quality and creativity first. It's a plan for a smaller BBC, but a BBC which uses its resources more effectively and collaboratively to deliver a full range of services to the public. But it is a plan which also means stretching efficiencies and significant job losses. It's my judgement that this is the last time the BBC will be able to make this level of savings without a substantial loss of services or quality or both."

In this context the conference will hear from keynote speakers **Caroline Thomson**, BBC Chief Operating Officer, with chair **Gillian Reynolds**, Radio Critic of *The Daily Telegraph* and **Lord Fowler**, former Chair, House of Lords Select Committee on Communications with chair **Stewart Purvis**, Professor of Television Journalism, City University. **Caroline Thomson** was the key executive leading the DQF review so licence payers will have a unique opportunity to hear and question her at first hand.

Lord Fowler will look at broadcasting, and particularly the BBC, in relation to the lessons that we have learnt from the phone-hacking scandal. Other speakers include **Ilse Howling**, Managing Director, Freeview, talking about the importance and future for free to air services in the digital age in the face of other delivery platforms and **Roger Darlington**, member of Ofcom's Communications Consumer Panel, who will give an update on Digital Radio. The conference will be followed by **VLV's AGM** and a **Member's Forum**.

**Tickets:** Corporate £210; Organisations/Academics £105;

Further details and tickets contact: Linda Forbes on 01474 338 711 or 01474 338 716 or email [Linda.Forbes@vlv.org.uk](mailto:Linda.Forbes@vlv.org.uk)

**For all press and media enquiries please call:**

Press release from Voice of the Listener & Viewer  
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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**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 does not handle complaints but is in touch with Members of Parliament, Government, media regulators and broadcasters; publishes briefings, responses to public consultations and a quarterly newsletter; holds conferences and other events in different parts of the UK, open to the public at affordable prices; organises visits for its members to broadcasting centres and holds annual Student Essay Competitions and Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting.

### **VLV stages events to continue the debate about public service broadcasting**

During a busy autumn schedule, Voice of the Listener & Viewer held a series of events around the country, in Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester, Edinburgh and London, giving members and other interested people the chance to consider the current key challenges to public service broadcasters in the UK.

### **Wednesday 2 November 2011**

#### **VLV's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar on Children's Broadcasting**

#### **Children's Programmes - Out of Date in the Digital Age?**

Speakers: **Joe Godwin**, Director of BBC Children's, **Baroness (Floella) Benjamin**, **Anne Brogan**, Director Kindle Entertainment, **Reg Bailey**, CEO, Mothers' Union and **Professor Sonia Livingstone**, LSE. Chair: **Professor Máire Messenger-Davies**, University of Ulster  
*1 Whitehall Place, London SW1*

### **Wednesday 23 November 2011**

4.00 - 6.00pm

#### **The Value of Localism - what's the case for local media?**

In association with OFCOM and the Centre for Media Research, Ulster University

Speakers: **Pat Loughrey**, Warden, Goldsmiths College, **Dave Hyndman**, Community Media Director, NvTv, **Mike Nesbitt** MLA; **David Mahoney**, Director of Content Policy, Ofcom and **Maggie Swarbrick**, University of Ulster. Chair: **John Rosborough**  
*University of Ulster, Belfast Campus, York Street, Belfast BT15 1ED*