



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tim Davie CBE
Director General, British Broadcasting Corporation
Broadcasting House
Portland Place
London W1A 1AA

28 November 2022

Dear Mr Davie,

I am writing to you to object to the BBC's proposed cuts to local radio programming.

In my own constituency, BBC Radio Lincolnshire has for many years been a vital resource for the community. It is an important provider of local news and plays a key role in underpinning local democracy.

A move towards shared regional programming and the relocation of journalist roles to regional hubs will inevitably dilute the station's local identity and have a negative effect upon its ability to adequately cover local issues and hold to account local institutions. I fear this will disproportionately affect a county like Lincolnshire.

The proposal to switch resources into online output will disadvantage the most marginalised and vulnerable members of the community, the elderly and those who do not have access to the internet, those for whom BBC Local Radio currently provides a service that exists nowhere else.

In times of emergency, BBC Radio Lincolnshire has provided a particularly important role. Its coverage of severe weather events, flooding, and the Covid-19 pandemic have all proven to be of significant value to the local community.

It seems clear to me that the reduction in the number of locally based journalists and locally broadcast output is likely to threaten its ability to respond effectively to such event in future. I fear, once again, it is the most vulnerable in society who suffer and they, like all BBC Licence Fee payers, deserve better.

These proposals appear to have been developed without any meaningful consultation with listeners or with the local newspapers whose online publications are also likely to be affected.

As someone who values the professionalism and public service of BBC Radio Lincolnshire, I urge you to reconsider these proposals and change course before this treasured resource is irreparably damaged.

Thank you for taking the time to look into this and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely
Edward Leigh