

BBC (INDEPENDENCE) BILL [HL]

EXPLANATORY NOTES

What these notes do

These Explanatory Notes relate to the BBC (Independence) Bill [HL] as introduced in the House of Lords on 4 July 2017 (HL Bill 31).

- These Explanatory Notes have been prepared by Lord Lester of Herne Hill, the Peer in charge of the Bill in order to assist the reader of the Bill and to help inform debate on it. They do not form part of the Bill and have not been endorsed by Parliament.
- These Explanatory Notes might best be read alongside the Bill. They are not, and are not intended to be, a comprehensive description of the Bill.

Overview of the Bill

- 1 This Bill makes provision about the independence of the British Broadcasting Corporation.
- 2 Clause 1(1) provides that the BBC is to be independent in all matters concerning the content of its output, the times and manner in which this is supplied, and in the governance and management of its affairs. Clause 1(2) seeks to ensure that the BBC is free from possible interference by Ministers and other public authorities in the United Kingdom.
- 3 Clause 1(3) requires the Secretary of State to make sufficient funds available to the BBC to enable it to effectively perform its functions as a public service broadcaster.
- 4 Clause 1(4) provides that the licence fee is to be used to fund the BBC in the performance of its functions and public purposes.
- 5 Clause 2 of the Bill provides that it comes into force on the beginning of the day on which it receives Royal Assent.

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