

From the Chairman
The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes CH

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and
Minister for Equality
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
4th floor
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

6 May 2014

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing, with regret, to submit my resignation as Chairman of the BBC Trust, with immediate effect.

As you know, my term of office as Chairman of the Trust is set to the end of April 2015. I have indicated previously that I had no intention of seeking a second term, although I offered to stay on for a few more weeks and months if that would be helpful. Events have however stolen a march on these plans.

On 27 April, I experienced serious chest pains and was admitted to hospital. I have now undergone a heart bypass operation and angioplasty. These procedures have been successful, and I am now in recuperation with the prospect of full recovery. The last few days have reminded me, if reminder were needed, of how fortunate we are in this country to benefit from the National Health Service and the dedication of those who serve in it from around the world.

On the advice of my doctors, however, and having consulted my family and friends, I have concluded that I cannot continue to work at the same full pace as I have done to date, and that I should reduce the range of roles I undertake. On this basis, I have decided with great regret that I must step down from much the most demanding of my roles – that of Chairman of the BBC Trust. This is a position that requires and has received from me one hundred per cent commitment, and has been my priority at all times. It would not be fair to my family to continue as before; and equally it would not be fair to the BBC and those it serves not to be able to give that commitment which the role demands.

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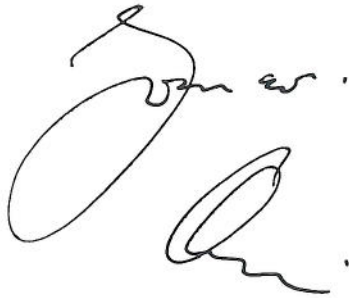
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It falls of course to the Government to identify a successor. In the meantime, and in line with Article 13(4) of the BBC Charter, Diane Coyle as Vice-Chairman will serve as Acting Chair of the Trust. She will continue with her colleagues vigorously to pursue the Trust's agenda to serve the interests of licence fee payers. In doing so, I know that the Trust will enjoy the support and benefit from the skill and experience of Tony Hall, who has made such an outstanding start in his first year as Director-General and who has appointed such an excellent team to help him.

It has been a privilege to have served as Chairman of the BBC Trust. The BBC is a huge national asset which is part of the everyday fabric of our lives. It is not perfect – what institution is? It always needs to challenge itself to improve. But it is a precious and wonderful thing, a hugely positive influence which benefits greatly from the creativity and dedication of its staff. I have had no reason to doubt that the leaders of all main political parties support the role it plays at the centre of our public realm. Most important of all, the British public enormously value the strength of its output, its independence and the contribution it makes every day to the quality of our lives.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and to the Deputy Prime Minister.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lord Patten', with a large, stylized flourish below it.

Lord Patten of Barnes CH
Chairman, BBC Trust