George the Fifth, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

To all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting!

Whereas it has been represented to Us by The Right Honourable Sir William Lowson Mitchell-Thomson, Baronet, K.B.E., M.P., our Postmaster General, that the Broadcasting Committee appointed by him to advise as to the proper scope of the Broadcasting Service and as to the management, control and finance thereof after the expiry of the existing Licence on the 31st day of December, 1926, has after sufficient enquiry and due deliberation recommended that the Broadcasting Service hitherto carried on by the British Broadcasting Company, Limited, should after the expiration of the Company’s Licence on the said 31st day of December, 1926, be conducted by a public corporation acting as Trustees for the national interest:

And Whereas it has been made to appear to Us that more than two million persons in our Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have applied for and taken out Licences to instal and work apparatus for wireless telegraphy for the purpose of receiving Broadcast programmes:

And Whereas in view of the widespread interest which is thereby shown to be taken by Our People in the Broadcasting Service and of the great value of the Service as a means of education and entertainment, We deem it desirable that the Service should be developed and exploited to the best advantage and in the national interest:

And Whereas We believe that it would greatly promote these objects and be for the public benefit if a Corporation charged with these duties were created by the exercise of Our Royal Prerogative:

Know ye that We being desirous of promoting the establishment and organisation of the said Corporation have by Our Royal Prerogative and of Our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion given and granted and by this Our Charter for Us, Our Heirs and Successors do hereby give and grant as follows:—

Incorporation.

1. The Right Honourable George Herbert Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, The Right Honourable Joseph Albert Baron Gainford, Sir John Gordon Nairne, Baronet, Dr. Montague John Rendall, M.A., LL.D., and Mrs. Ethel Snowden, and all other persons who may pursuant to this Our Charter become members of the Corporation established by this Our Charter shall be a body corporate by the name of The British Broadcasting Corporation with perpetual succession and a common seal with

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power to break, alter and renew the same at discretion; willing and
ordaining that the said body corporate (hereinafter referred to as
"the Corporation") shall and may sue and be sued in all Courts and
be capable in law to take and hold real or personal property and do all
matters and things incidental or pertaining to a body corporate, but
so that the Corporation shall apply the whole of their surplus revenue
(if any) and other income solely in promoting their objects. The members
of the Corporation are hereinafter referred to as "Governors."

Term of Charter.

2. The Corporation shall be established for a term of ten years,
commencing from the 1st day of January, 1927.

Objects of the Corporation.

3. The objects for which the Corporation is established and incor-
porated are:—

(a) To carry on a Broadcasting Service within Our United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Ireland (but not including therein the
Irish Free State) the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man
and for that purpose to acquire from time to time from
Our Postmaster General for the time being a Licence or
Licences in such form, and subject to such terms and
conditions as he may from time to time prescribe, for the
erection, establishment, maintenance and operation within
Our Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the
Channel Islands and the Isle of Man of stations as a public
utility service for the broadcasting to the public by means
of wireless telephony of any matter which for the time
being may be permitted by or be within the scope or ambit
of any such Licence; and to develop and exploit the said
broadcasting service and any such Licence as aforesaid in
any such other directions and by any such other means
and methods as may for the time being be permitted by
Our Postmaster General for the time being and from time
to time to obtain or agree to a renewal or extension of or
any modifications of the terms and conditions contained
in any such licence as aforesaid as Our Postmaster General
may from time to time be willing to grant or agree to.

(b) To acquire on such terms as may be agreed, arranged or
sanctioned any undertaking, stations, plant and assets
which may be necessary or convenient for carrying out the
objects of the Corporation.

(c) To erect, equip and instal stations with all such plant,
machinery and other effects as may be requisite or con-
venient to permit of the same effectively receiving and
transmitting for broadcasting purposes.

(d) To compile and prepare, print, publish, issue, circulate and
distribute, whether gratis or otherwise, such papers,
magazines, periodicals, books, circulars and other literary
matter as may seem conducive to any of the objects of the
Corporation.
(c) To collect news of and information relating to current events in any part of the world and in any manner that may be thought fit and to establish and subscribe to newsagencies.

(f) To acquire by registration, purchase or otherwise, copyrights in any literary, musical and artistic works, plays, songs, gramophone records, news and other matter and any trade-marks and trade names and to use, exercise, develop, grant licences in respect of, or otherwise turn to account the same with a view to the furtherance of any of the objects of the Corporation.

(g) To purchase or otherwise acquire and turn to account in any manner that may be thought fit any Letters Patent or patent rights or any interest in any Letters Patent or patent rights, brevets d’invention, licences, concessions, and the like conferring an exclusive or non-exclusive or limited right to use any secret or other information as to any invention in relation to any device or machine serving or calculated to serve any useful purpose in connection with any of the objects of the Corporation.

(h) Subject as hereinafter provided to enter into any arrangement with any governments or authorities, supreme, municipal, local or otherwise that may seem conducive to the Corporation’s objects or any of them, and to obtain from any such government or authority any rights, privileges and concessions which the Corporation may think it desirable to obtain, and to carry out, exercise and comply with any such arrangements, rights, privileges and concessions.

(i) To establish and support or aid in the establishment and support of associations, institutions, funds, trusts and conveniences calculated to benefit employees or ex-employees of the Corporation, or the dependants or connections of such persons, and to grant pensions and allowances, and to make payments towards insurances, and to subscribe or guarantee money for charitable or benevolent objects, or for any exhibition, or for any public, general or useful object.

(j) To purchase, take on lease, or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any real and personal property and any rights or privileges which the Corporation may think necessary or convenient for the purposes of their business or the furtherance of their objects, and in particular any land, buildings, easements, machinery, plant and stock-in-trade.

(k) To invest and deal with the moneys of the Corporation not immediately required in such manner as may from time to time be determined.

(l) Subject as hereinafter provided to borrow or raise or secure the payment of money in such manner as the Corporation shall think fit, and in particular by mortgage or charge
of all or any parts of the property or rights of the Corporation or by the issue of debentures or debenture stock, charged upon all or any of the Corporation’s property or rights (both present and future), and to purchase, redeem, or pay off any such securities. Provided always that the aggregate amount of the moneys so borrowed, raised or secured and for the time being outstanding at any one time shall not exceed £500,000.

(m) To sell, improve, manage, develop, exchange, lease, mortgage, enfranchise, dispose of, turn to account, or otherwise deal with all or any part of the property and rights of the Corporation.

(n) To do all such other things as the Corporation may deem incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the objects or the exercise of any of the powers of the Corporation.

Power to acquire Land.

4. We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, license, authorise and hereafter enable the Corporation to purchase or otherwise acquire any lands, tenements or hereditaments within Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (but not including therein the Irish Free State), the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and to hold all or any such lands, tenements or hereditaments or any interest therein in perpetuity or on lease or otherwise and from time to time to grant, devise, alienate or otherwise dispose of or deal with the same or any part thereof. And We do hereby also for Ourselves, Our Heirs and Successors give and grant our Licence to any person or persons and any body politic or corporate to assure in perpetuity or otherwise or to demise to or for the benefit of the Corporation any lands, tenements or hereditaments or any interest in any lands, tenements or hereditaments whatsoever within the limits aforesaid. But the Corporation is hereby prohibited from acquiring or holding any land situate outside the limits aforesaid or any interest therein.

Restriction on Dominion and Foreign Concessions.

5. We do hereby declare that the Corporation shall not seek any Concession, right or privilege from or enter into any negotiations or arrangement with any Dominion or Foreign Government without having first obtained the consent in writing of Our Postmaster General.

Organization.

6.—(i) There shall be a Chairman of the Corporation who shall be entitled to preside at the meetings thereof.

(ii) There shall also be a Vice-Chairman of the Corporation who shall be entitled to preside at the meetings thereof in the absence of the Chairman.

(iii) The Chairman or other officer authorised by him shall, subject to such regulations as may be made by the Corporation as hereinafter provided, summon all meetings of the Corporation for the despatch of business.
(iv) The First Chairman of the Corporation shall be the said Right Honourable George Herbert Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, who shall be entitled to hold office as long as he continues to be a Governor of the Corporation.

(v) The first Vice-Chairman of the Corporation shall be the said Right Honourable Joseph Albert Baron Gainford, who shall be entitled to hold office as long as he continues to be a Governor of the Corporation.

(vi) If at any time there shall be a vacancy in the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Corporation it shall be certified to Us by Our Postmaster General under his hand, and such vacancy may be filled at Our will and pleasure by Us in Council and We may determine the period for which and the terms upon which the Chairman or Vice-Chairman so appointed by Us shall hold office.

(vii) The chief executive officer of the Corporation shall be called the Director General. The first Director General shall be John Charles Walsham Reith, Esquire.

7. The Corporation shall appoint such officers and staff as they may think necessary (including any Director General who may be appointed in succession to the first Director General) for the efficient transaction of their business and shall fix such rates of remuneration, including that of the Director General herein appointed, as they shall think proper. Subject to the provisions of any contract between the Corporation and any officer, the Corporation may remove any officer (other than a Governor) however appointed.

8. The Corporation shall meet for the despatch of business, and shall from time to time make such regulations with respect to the summoning, notice, place, management and adjournment of such meetings and generally with respect to the transaction and management of their business, as they may think fit, subject to the following conditions:—

(a) The first meeting of the Corporation shall be held on such day after the date of this Our Charter, and at such place, as may be determined by the Chairman and, subject to the provisions of this Our Charter, the proceedings at any such first meeting of the Corporation shall be conducted in such manner as may be directed by the Chairman.

(b) The quorum for a meeting of the Corporation shall consist of three Governors, or such other number as the Chairman with the concurrence of the Corporation may from time to time declare.

(c) Every question shall be decided by a majority of votes of the Governors present and voting on that question. In case of an equality of votes at any meeting the person presiding at such meeting shall have a second or casting vote. A Governor of the Corporation shall not be entitled to vote upon any question respecting his own remuneration except in regard to any remuneration payable under Clause 13 of this Our Charter.
9. The Corporation may appoint a Committee or Committees (including District Committees) to advise them with regard to all or any matters connected with the Broadcasting Service and the business operations and affairs of the Corporation. Committees (including District Committees) shall have power to appoint advisory Sub-Committees. Committees shall be appointed for such purposes and on such conditions as the Corporation may decide. The Corporation may from time to time make regulations with regard to the meetings and proceedings of any such Committees or Sub-Committees, and subject thereto the provisions of this Our Charter with respect to the meetings and proceedings of the Corporation shall mutatis mutandis apply.

Governors.

10.—(i) The first Governors of the Corporation shall subject to the provisions as to disqualification hereinafter contained be entitled to remain in office for five years from the date of their appointment.

(ii) Governors appointed subsequently to those herein appointed shall subject to the provisions as to disqualification hereinafter contained be entitled to remain in office for such period as we may direct which shall not exceed a period of five years.

(iii) A retiring Governor shall be eligible for reappointment.

(iv) The number of Governors may from time to time be increased by Us in Council.

Disqualification of Governors.

11. A Governor of the Corporation shall ipso facto cease to be a Governor thereof—

(a) If his Governorship be terminated by Us in Council, or
(b) If he becomes of unsound mind or bankrupt or compound with his creditors, or
(c) If he send in a written resignation of his Governorship to Our Postmaster General, or
(d) If he shall absent himself from the meetings of the Corporation continuously for six months without the consent of the Corporation and the Corporation shall resolve that his office be vacated.

12. If and whenever any vacancy shall arise among the Governors of the Corporation by reason of the retirement, resignation, disqualification or death of a Governor or for any other reason it shall be certified to Us by Our Postmaster General under his hand and such vacancy may be filled at Our will and pleasure by Us in Council.

13. The Governors of the Corporation may retain by way of remuneration for their services as Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Governor as the case may be out of the revenue of the Corporation such sums (to be deemed to accrue from day to day) as the Corporation may from time to time resolve not exceeding the sums following, that is to say:—

To the Chairman, £3,000 per annum.
To the Vice-Chairman, £1,000 per annum.
To each of the other Governors, £700 per annum.
The Governors may in addition retain out of the revenue of the Corporation expenses properly incurred by them in the due performance of their office.

Financial.

14. The Corporation is hereby authorised and empowered:—

(i) To receive all funds which may be granted annually or otherwise by the Legislature in furtherance of the purposes of this Our Charter.

(ii) To administer all funds which may be granted as aforesaid and to receive and administer all other sums and revenue which may be obtained by or given to the Corporation or derived from any other source not hereinbefore mentioned exclusively in furtherance of the purposes of this Our Charter, with power, subject to any conditions which may be attached to any such grant or gift, as aforesaid, to treat all such funds either as capital or income at their discretion. Except as in this Our Charter expressly provided no revenue or other moneys derived from any source shall in any event be divided by way of profit or otherwise amongst the Governors of the Corporation.

Sinking and Reserve Funds.

15.—(i) We do hereby declare that in the event of the Corporation exercising the power hereinbefore contained of borrowing or raising money upon the security of or otherwise charging all or any part of their property or rights (otherwise than for the purpose of obtaining temporary banking accommodation and facilities) they shall set aside yearly out of their revenue and invest in Trustee securities and accumulate as a sinking fund which shall be applied towards the repayment of such moneys and redemption of such securities such sums as in the opinion of the Auditors of the Corporation will be sufficient after bringing into account the estimated value for purposes of redemption of any assets acquired or to be acquired or additions or improvements made or to be made by means of the money so borrowed or raised as aforesaid to provide for the repayment of any sums so borrowed or raised by the Corporation otherwise than as aforesaid and the redemption of any securities for sums so borrowed, raised or secured by the Corporation prior to the expiration of the term of this Our Charter or any extension thereof. For the purposes of this Clause assets acquired or additions or improvements made by means of temporary loans repaid out of moneys so borrowed raised or secured as aforesaid shall be deemed to have been acquired or made by means of such last-mentioned moneys.

(ii) The Corporation shall likewise set aside yearly out of their revenue and invest in Trustee Securities and accumulate as a sinking fund such sums (if any) as in the opinion of their Auditors are adequate and proper to meet depreciation or losses or contingencies or to repair, maintain or improve any property of the Corporation and such sums may be applied for the purposes aforesaid from time to time in such manner as the Corporation shall determine.
(iii) The Corporation may set aside out of their revenue such sums as they think proper as a reserve fund for such purposes (other than those provided for by the said sinking fund) as the Corporation may think conducive to their objects or any of them, and the same may be applied accordingly from time to time in such manner as the Corporation shall determine, and the Corporation may, without placing the same to reserve, carry over any revenue which they may not require or may think it inexpedient to expend in any year.

(iv) The Corporation may invest the sums so set aside for reserve in pursuance of Sub-Clause (iii) of this Clause upon such securities or investments as they may think fit, and from time to time deal with and vary such investments and dispose of all or any part thereof for the benefit of the Corporation, and divide the reserve fund into such special funds as they think fit, with full power to employ the assets constituting the reserve fund in the business of the Corporation and without being bound to keep the same separate from the other assets.

Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.

16.—(i) The accounts of the Corporation shall be audited annually by an auditor or auditors, who shall be chartered accountants, and shall be approved by Our Postmaster General for the time being.

(ii) The Corporation shall, once in every year at least, prepare a General Report of their proceedings for the year preceding, and attach thereto a duly certified Statement of Accounts and of the finances of the Corporation.

(iii) The Chairman shall, on the completion of every such annual General Report and Statement of Accounts forthwith submit the same to Our Postmaster General for the time being.

(iv) The Corporation shall at all reasonable times upon demand made give to Our Postmaster General and all other persons nominated by him full liberty to examine the accounts of the Corporation and furnish them with all information and documents which they may require with regard to the receipts and expenditure of the Corporation.

General.

17.—(i) The Corporation may at any time, and from time to time, apply for and accept a Supplemental Charter, or an Act of Parliament, if it appears to them that such Supplemental Charter or Act of Parliament is required for carrying into effect any of the purposes or powers of this Our Charter.

(ii) No act or proceeding of the Corporation, or of any Committee established by the Corporation, shall be questioned on account of any vacancy or vacancies in the Corporation or any such Committees.

(iii) No defect in the appointment of any person acting as Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Governor of the Corporation or of a member of any Committee established by the Corporation shall be deemed to vitiate any proceedings of the Corporation or of such Committee in
which he has taken part, in cases where the majority of members
parties to such proceedings are duly entitled to act.

(iv) Any instrument which, if made by a private person, would
be required to be under seal, shall be under the seal of the Corporation
and signed by the proper officer of the Corporation. Any notice issued
by or on behalf of the Corporation shall be deemed to be duly executed
if signed by the proper officer; but, subject as aforesaid, any appoint-
ment made by the Corporation and any contract, order, or other
document made by or proceeding from the Corporation shall be
deemed to be duly executed either if sealed with the seal of the Corpora-
tion and signed by the proper officer, or if signed by two or more
Governors of the Corporation authorised to sign them by a resolution
of the Corporation and countersigned by the proper officer.

(v) The proper officer of the Corporation shall be any officer
authorised by the Corporation to sign such notices and documents as
he is required to sign as aforesaid.

18.—(i) The Grant of this Our Charter is made upon the express
condition that the Corporation shall strictly and faithfully observe
the provisions prescribed therein and also the provisions prescribed
by Our Postmaster General in any licence or instructions which he
may from time to time grant or issue to the Corporation.

(ii) If it is made to appear or appears to Our Postmaster General
either on the representation of any person or body politic or corporate
appearing to be interested or in any other manner howsoever that there
is reasonable cause to suppose that any of the provisions of this Our
Charter or of any such Licence or any instructions of Our Postmaster
General have not been observed or complied with Our Postmaster
General may require the Corporation to satisfy him that such provisions
have been complied with and if within a time specified by him the
Corporation shall fail so to do Our Postmaster General may if he thinks
fit certify the same to Us under his hand, and upon such certificate
being given it shall be lawful for Us, our Heirs and Successors, if we
shall be so minded, by writing under Our Great Seal, absolutely to
revoke and make void this Our Charter, and everything therein con-
tained. Provided nevertheless that the power of revocation so hereby
reserved shall not have or be construed to have the effect of preventing
or barring any proceeding by seire facias, or by the Writ of quo warranto,
or otherwise according to law, to annul or repeal this Our Charter.

19. And We do further will and declare that on the determination
of the said term of ten years the business so to be carried on by the
Corporation shall cease, so far as the same may depend upon or be
carried on under or by virtue of the powers and provisions herein
given and contained, unless, We, Our Heirs and Successors, shall, by
writing under Our Sign Manual declare to the contrary, and shall
authorise the continuance of the said business under the provisions of
this Our Charter for such further term, and under such provisions and
conditions as We, Our Heirs and Successors, shall think fit, and any
term for which this Our Charter is so renewed shall be construed to be
part of the term of this Our Charter.
Dissolution and Winding-Up.

20. It shall be lawful for the Corporation to surrender this Our Charter subject to the sanction of Us, Our Heirs and Successors and upon such terms as We or They may consider fit and to wind up or otherwise deal with the affairs of the Corporation in such manner as may be approved by Our Postmaster General.

21. Upon the voluntary or compulsory dissolution of the Corporation the property and assets of the Corporation shall be applied in satisfaction of the debts and liabilities of the Corporation and subject thereto shall be disposed of in accordance with the directions of Our Postmaster General.

General Declaration.

22. Lastly we do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors grant unto the Corporation hereby established and their successors that these Our Letters Patent or the enrolment or exemplification thereof shall be in and by all things good firm valid sufficient and effectual in law according to the true intent and meaning thereof and shall be taken construed and judged in the most favourable and beneficial sense for the best advantage of the Corporation and their successors as well in all Our Courts of Record as elsewhere by all and singular Judges Justices Officers Ministers and other subjects whatsoever of Us, Our Heirs and Successors any non-recital mis-recital or any other omission imperfection defect matter cause or thing whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding. And this provision shall apply to this Our Charter as altered amended or added to in manner aforesaid.

In Witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

Witness Ourselves at Westminster, the twentieth day of December in the seventeenth year of Our Reign.

By Warrant under the King's Sign Manual.