Committees of Enquiry

Sykes Committee
*Broadcasting Committee: report*
Appointed: 24th April 1923
Reported: 25th August 1923
Cost: £320

Members:
- Sir Frederick Sykes MP
- Major the Hon JJ Astor MP
- FJ Brown
- Sir Henry Bunbury
- Viscount Burnham
- WH Eccles
- Sir Henry Norman MP
- JCW Reith
- Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson
- Charles Trevelyan MP

Discussed: British Broadcasting Company funding by licence and its monopoly on broadcasting
Recommended:
- licence fee funding
- no advertising
- broadcasting transfer from private to public

Outcome: The Company continued its monopoly and funding by licence. Eventually it became a public corporation

Crawford Committee
*Report of the Broadcasting Committee, 1925*
Appointed: 20th July 1925
Reported: 2nd March 1926
Cost: £106 7s 1d

Members:
- Earl of Crawford
- Lord Blanesburgh
- Capt Ian Fraser MP
- Rt Hon William Graham MP
- Sir William Henry Hadow
- Rt Hon Ian MacPherson MP
- Lord Rayleigh
- Sir Thomas Royden
- Dame Merial Talbot
- Rudyard Kipling (resigned)

Discussed: broadcasting organisation and its effect on viewers
Recommended:
- broadcasting run by a public service corporation
- no direct parliamentary control
- licence fee funding for ten years
- educational programmes.

Outcome: The establishment of the British Broadcasting Corporation by Royal Charter.
Selsdon Television Committee
Report of the Television Committee
Appointed: 14th May 1934
Reported: 14th January 1935
Cost: £965

Members:
Lord Selsdon
Sir John Cadman
Col AS Angwin
Noel Ashbridge
OF Brown
Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Carpendale
FW Phillips

Discussed: television broadcasting and whether to use the Baird or the Marconi systems
Recommended:
  • television broadcasting should be established within the public sector
  • a London station should be set up using both systems until one proved better

Outcomes: The BBC's first Television Broadcasts from Alexandra Palace (eventually broadcasting with the Marconi system).

Ullswater Committee
Report of the Broadcasting Committee, 1935
Appointed: 17th April 1935
Reported: 31st December 1935
Cost: £564 10s

Members:
Viscount Ullswater
Major the Hon JJ Astor MP
Major the Rt Hon CR Atlee MP
E Clement Davies
Lord Elton
Sir William McLintock
Marchioness of Reading
Lord Selsdon
H Graham White MP

Discussed: broadcasting, including overseas, funding and the nature of programming
Recommended:
  • regional broadcasting decentralisation and expansion
  • Government control during national emergencies
  • freedom to report anti-Government views
  • no funding by advertising
  • increase in Licence Fee
  • news programmes' impartiality
  • more Schools broadcasting
  • 2 more Governors

Outcome: further expansion of the BBC and programmes
Hankey Television Committee

*Television*

Appointed: September 1943
Reported: 29th December 1944

Members:
Lord Hankey
Sir Stanley Angwin
Sir Noel Ashbridge
Sir Raymond Birchall
Professor JD Cockcroft
RJP Harvey
RW Foot (until March 1944)
WH Haley (from April 1944)

Discussed: television services after the War
Recommended:
- BBC monopoly of television services
- television in the regions
- high-definition television on 405 lines
- television receiver standards
- more co-ordinated research & development
- television’s financial independence

Outcomes: The post-war BBC Television service, a monopoly until 1956; expansion of BBC Research and Development, established post-war at Kingswood Warren

Beveridge Committee

*Report of the Broadcasting Committee 1949*

Appointed: 21st June 1949
Reported: 15th December 1950
Cost: £15,415

Members:
Lord Beveridge
AL Binns
Earl of Elgin
Lady Megan Lloyd George MP
Selwyn Lloyd MP
WF Oakeshott
J Reeves MP
Mary Stocks
IAR Stedeford (from 27th September 1949)
J Crawford (from 23rd February 1950)
Dr Stephen Taylor (from 20th March 1950)
Sir William Coates (resigned)
James Bowman (resigned)
EAJ Davies (resigned)

Discussed: BBC monopoly and funding
Recommended:
- BBC continuing as sole broadcaster
- Charter renewal and Licence Fee funding but under review
- regional devolution
- broadcasting of minority views
- more political broadcasting
- trade union recognition
Minority Report: Selwyn Lloyd recommended the end of the broadcasting monopoly
Outcome: When the Conservatives won the election in 1950, Selwyn Lloyd’s recommendations were consolidated into a White Paper and ITV was set up.

Pilkington Committee
*Report of the Committee on Broadcasting*
Appointed: 13th July 1960
Reported: 1st June 1962
Cost: £45,450

Members:
Sir Harry Pilkington
H Collison
Elwyn Davies
Joyce Grenfell
Richard Hoggart
EP Hudson
JS Shields
RL Smith-Rose
Elizabeth Whitley
WA Wright
Professor FH Newark (from March 1961)
J Megaw (resigned 5th January 1961)
Peter Hall (resigned 27th January 1961)
Sir Jock Campbell (resigned 2nd February 1961)

Discussed: organisation of whole broadcasting industry and programmes
Recommended:
• renewal of BBC Charter and Licence Fee funding
• extended radio hours
• adult education broadcasting
• second television channel
• colour television on 625 lines
• local broadcasting
• better commercial television regulation

The report criticised commercial television for triviality and endorsed the view “Those who say they give the public what it wants begin by underestimating public taste, and end by debauching it.”
Outcome included: Open University, BBC local radio, BBC 2, colour television licence

Annan Committee
*Report of the Committee on the future of broadcasting*
Appointed: 10th April 1974
Reported: 24th February 1977
Cost: £315,000

Members:
Lord Annan
Peter Goldman
Professor Hilde Himmelweit
Tom Jackson
Antony Jay
Marghanita Laski
Hilda M Lawrence
A Dewi Lewis
Sir James Mackay  
The Hon Mrs Charles Morrison  
Dipak Nandy  
John G Parkes  
John Pollock  
Professor Geoffrey Sims  
Phillip Whitehead MP  
Sir Marcus Worsley

Discussed: whole broadcasting industry, including new technologies and their funding, the role and funding of the BBC and IBA, programme standards

Recommended:
  • BBC funding by Licence Fee  
  • fourth, independent television channel  
  • long-term restructure and diversification of broadcasting  
  • establishment of Broadcasting Complaints Commission  
  • privatisation of local radio  
  • independence from direct political control  
  • increase in independent production

Outcomes: increased licence fee, Channel 4 (eventually – Labour Government indecision meant that this was not implemented until 1980 under the Conservatives)

**Hunt Committee**

*Report of the Inquiry into Cable Expansion and Broadcasting Policy*

Appointed: 6th April 1982  
Reported: 28th September 1982

Members:
Lord Hunt of Tamworth  
Sir Maurice Hodgson  
Professor James Ring

Discussed: The organisation and future of cable broadcasting

Recommended:
  • a cable regulatory authority  
  • cable providers able to make programmes  
  • BBC and ITV programmes carried free

Outcome: expansion of cable broadcasting, eventually overtaken by satellite broadcasting

**Peacock Committee**

*Report of the Committee on Financing the BBC*

Appointed: 27th March 1985  
Reported: 29th May 1986

Members:
Professor Alan Peacock  
Samuel Brittan  
Judith Chalmers  
Jeremy Hardie  
Professor Alastair Hetherington  
Lord Quinton  
Sir Peter Reynolds

Discussed: BBC funding (taxation, sponsorship, advertising or licence fee) and efficiency, cable and satellite broadcasting
Recommended:

- licence fee continues, indexed to the RPI
- Radio 1 and 2 privatisation
- more broadcasting hours
- independent production quotas
- ITV companies franchise auctions
- removal of cable and satellite broadcasting restrictions

Outcomes included: Charter renewal and licence fee (although increase was less than the BBC had hoped), BBC staff cuts and efficiency drives, night-time broadcasting, independent production sector growth, deregulation of ITV, satellite broadcasting

Davies Committee [independent review panel]
The Future Funding of the BBC
Appointed: 14th October 1998
Reported: 28th July 1999

Members:
Gavyn Davies
Helen Black
Alan Budd
Ruth Evans
James Gordon
David Lipsey
Tony Newton
Julia Neuberger
Paul Heron
Eleanor Street
Ian Windle
Tanya Stocks
Heather Rabbatts (resigned February 1999)

Recommended:
- licence fee frozen after 2001
- licence fee sole income for domestic services
- new money from efficiency savings
- digital services funded by a Licence Fee supplement
- sale of part of BBC Worldwide and Resources Ltd.

Outcome: digital Licence Fee plans (opposed by James Gordon) were dropped because of Government opposition – instead funding was incorporated into the main Licence Fee.