### Submission To The House Of Lords Select Committee On Communications Re: The Future Of Public Service Broadcasting In The UK

#### **Executive Summary**

Public service broadcasting (PSB) is essential for a healthy democracy. It provides impartial and accurate news and information, supports cultural diversity, and promotes education and learning. However, PSB is facing a number of challenges, including the rise of commercial broadcasting, the fragmentation of audiences, and the decline in advertising revenue.



#### Submission To The House Of Lords Select Committee On Communications Re: DAB Digital Radio Switchover

#### by Grant Goddard

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The government must take action to support PSB. This could include providing financial support, protecting PSB from commercial pressures, and ensuring that PSB has access to a wide range of content. Public service broadcasting has been a vital part of British life for over 90 years. It has played a key role in informing, educating, and entertaining the public. PSB is also essential for a healthy democracy. It provides impartial and accurate news and information, supports cultural diversity, and promotes education and learning.

However, PSB is facing a number of challenges. The rise of commercial broadcasting has led to a decline in audience share for PSB channels. The fragmentation of audiences has also made it more difficult for PSB to reach its target audience. And the decline in advertising revenue has put financial pressure on PSB broadcasters.

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#### The Importance Of Public Service Broadcasting

PSB is essential for a healthy democracy. It provides impartial and accurate news and information, supports cultural diversity, and promotes education and learning.

#### Impartial And Accurate News And Information

PSB is a vital source of impartial and accurate news and information. This is especially important in an era of fake news and misinformation. PSB broadcasters have a duty to report the news without bias or prejudice. They must also be accurate and fair in their reporting.

#### **Cultural Diversity**

PSB supports cultural diversity by providing a platform for a wide range of voices and perspectives. PSB broadcasters are required to reflect the diversity of the UK population in their programming. They must also support independent production and new talent.

#### **Education And Learning**

PSB promotes education and learning by providing a range of educational programs. These programs can help people of all ages to learn new skills, improve their knowledge, and understand the world around them.

#### The Challenges Facing Public Service Broadcasting

PSB is facing a number of challenges, including the rise of commercial broadcasting, the fragmentation of audiences, and the decline in advertising revenue.

#### The Rise Of Commercial Broadcasting

The rise of commercial broadcasting has led to a decline in audience share for PSB channels. Commercial broadcasters are able to spend more money on marketing and promotion than PSB broadcasters. They can also offer more popular programming, such as reality TV shows and soap operas.

#### **The Fragmentation Of Audiences**

The fragmentation of audiences has also made it more difficult for PSB to reach its target audience. Audiences are now spread across a wider range of channels and platforms. This makes it more difficult for PSB broadcasters to reach a large number of people with their programming.

#### The Decline In Advertising Revenue

The decline in advertising revenue has put financial pressure on PSB broadcasters. Advertising revenue is the main source of income for commercial broadcasters. However, the rise of digital advertising has led to a decline in advertising revenue for all broadcasters.

#### The Government's Role In Supporting Public Service Broadcasting

The government must take action to support PSB. This could include providing financial support, protecting PSB from commercial pressures, and ensuring that PSB has access to a wide range of content.

#### **Financial Support**

The government could provide financial support to PSB broadcasters. This could take the form of direct grants or tax breaks. Financial support would help PSB broadcasters to invest in new programming and to compete with commercial broadcasters.

#### **Protecting PSB From Commercial Pressures**

The government could protect PSB from commercial pressures by ensuring that PSB broadcasters are not subject to the same regulations as commercial broadcasters. For example, PSB broadcasters could be exempt from the requirement to maximize profits. This would allow PSB broadcasters to focus on providing high-quality programming, rather than on making money.

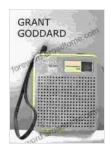
#### **Ensuring That PSB Has Access To A Wide Range Of Content**

The government could ensure that PSB broadcasters have access to a wide range of content. This could be done by requiring commercial broadcasters to make their content available to PSB broadcasters. The

government could also provide funding for the production of independent content.

PSB is essential for a healthy democracy. It provides impartial and accurate news and information, supports cultural diversity, and promotes education and learning. However, PSB is facing a number of challenges. The government must take action to support PSB. This could include providing financial support, protecting PSB from commercial pressures, and ensuring that PSB has access to a wide range of content.

If the government does not take action to support PSB, it will be at risk of disappearing. This would be a great loss for the UK. PSB is a vital part of British life. It informs, educates, and entertains the public. It also supports cultural diversity and promotes education and learning. The government must do everything it can to protect PSB.



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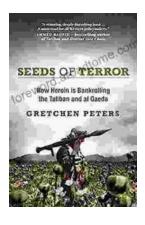
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