

Andrew Montford's letter to the chairman of the *House of Commons Culture Media and Sport Select Committee*. 13th January 2014

Dear Mr Whittingdale

Over the weekend an article was published in the Mail on Sunday describing the links between environmental NGOs and the BBC and the possibility That the last government effectively subverted the corporation's output. Those involved with the BBC - staff and management and the BBC Trust - have repeatedly made false representations to the public.

This is not the first time that BBC has received adverse publicity as a result of clandestine links to environmental organisations: in 2011 it was revealed that BBC World was taking free programming from environmental NGOs. It is now clear that the corporation has become inextricably linked with the environmental movement

There is now an urgent need for an independent inquiry into the links between the BBC and green groups. Despite direct representations, the BBC Trust has shown no interest in examining these issues; nor is there any likelihood that it would do so in a fair and transparent manner. Previous scandals involving the BBC have shown that the first instinct of the Trust is to protect the corporation rather than the public interest.

I would therefore like to formally request that your committee institute an investigation into the links between green NGOs and the BBC, and in particular the so-called 28-gate affair.

Please note that I will publish any reply you give.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Montford
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