

Media Bill

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Clause 1

BARONESS BULL

Clause 1, page 2, line 14, at end insert –

- “(c) which maintains the high general standards with respect to the programmes included in them, and in particular with respect to –
- (i) the contents of the programmes,
 - (ii) the quality of programme making, and
 - (iii) the professional skill and editorial integrity applied in the making of the programmes.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to reinstate the requirement in the Communications Act (2003) for public service broadcasters to maintain high standards in terms of content, programming making and professional skills in order to fulfil the public service remit.

BARONESS BULL

Clause 1, page 2, line 18, at end insert –

- “(za) that the relevant audiovisual content made available by the public service broadcasters (taken together) comprises a public service for the dissemination of information and for the provision of education and entertainment;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would reinstate the reference in the Communications Act (2003) to the Reithian principles.

BARONESS BULL

Clause 1, page 2, line 18, at end insert –

- “(za) that cultural activity in the United Kingdom, and its diversity, are reflected, supported and stimulated by the representation in those services (taken

together) of drama, comedy and music, by the inclusion of feature films in those services and by the treatment of other visual and performing arts;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would reinstate the requirement in the Communications Act (2003) for public service broadcasting to reflect, support and stimulate cultural activity and, by extension, the creative industries.

BARONESS BULL

Clause 1, page 2, line 38, at end insert –

“(iii) a suitable quantity and range of programmes on educational matters, of programmes of an educational nature and of other programmes of educative value.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would reinstate the requirement in the Communications Act (2003) for public service broadcasters to provide programmes on educational matters, of an educational nature and of educative value (a) distinguishing between programmes that reflect the lives and concerns of children and educational programming; and b) recognising the role of public service broadcasting in supporting lifelong learning.

After Clause 38

BARONESS THORNTON

After Clause 38, insert the following new Clause –

“Minimum standards for age classifications

When considering the adequacy of age ratings, OFCOM must assess whether any age ratings used by a tier 1 service are –

- (a) widely recognised by the United Kingdom public;
- (b) underpinned by a transparent set of standards;
- (c) informed by regular consultation with the United Kingdom public.”

Member's explanatory statement

This would require OFCOM to consider whether age ratings systems used by a tier 1 service meet a set of minimum standards.

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