



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tim Davie
Director-General
British Broadcasting Corporation
Broadcasting House
London W1A 1AA

13 July 2022

Dear Mr Davie,

We are writing to express our deep concern about the BBC's plans to end specific regional news programming for our constituents.

Regional news must be sufficiently local to be relevant. Look East (West) already covers a large geographical area across Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Northampton. Amalgamating the service with Look East (East) and basing it in Norwich would stretch coverage to its breaking point.

People living in Milton Keynes feel no connection to Norfolk. The present Cambridge-based western service is able to provide enough stories of relevance to our individual constituencies to maintain and engage an audience. A generic Look East for the whole of the east of England cannot hope to do likewise.

We urge you to think again about this retrograde step, which would seriously damage local journalism at a time when it needs support. The BBC's funding of local democracy reporters has been a positive development, so it is particularly sad that this commitment is being undermined by your plans for broadcast news.

Television news reports and footage are the gold standard. Given the proliferation of news clips across social media and digital platforms, they should be at the heart of any "digital-first" strategy, not halved in output.

Please halt these plans and maintain the BBC's long and valued history of local news reporting.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Bristow MP
Peterborough

Anthony Browne MP
South Cambridgeshire

Jonathan Djanogly MP
Huntingdon