Sarah Wollaston Chair, Health Committee

I welcome the Secretary of State’s words of reassurance on editorial independence. Will he also provide reassurance on regional broadcasting and its continuing importance for the BBC?

John Whittingdale The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

I very much agree with my hon. Friend about the importance of BBC regional and local broadcasting. When it comes to BBC local radio in particular, it is difficult to imagine that the commercial sector would ever provide the sort of news broadcasting and local community information that the BBC provides. This is certainly one of the BBC's strengths, which I hope to see continue and strengthen even further in the future.

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