



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



Department  
for International  
Development

Lord Harries of Pentregarth  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0AA

7 July 2020

*Dear Lord Harries,*

I am writing to respond to your question, which you asked in the Chamber during the oral question debate on Wednesday 1 July, regarding the listening audience of BBC World Service in the DPRK.

It is extremely difficult to measure the audience reach of the BBC Korean World Service inside the DPRK. Access to international media sources from inside the DPRK is extremely limited. We believe exposure to free and open reporting is a vital element of a free, fair and open society. The UK champions media freedom wherever possible.

The FCO funds BBC Korean service as part of the World2020 Programme, however the British Government exerts no operational or editorial influence over the service as the BBC, and the BBC World Service, is fully independent of Government, as laid out in the Royal Charter.

A copy of this letter has been placed in the libraries of both Houses.

*Yours sincerely,*

**LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON**  
Minister of State for the South Asia and the Commonwealth  
Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict