

Room 211
35 Marylebone High Street
London W1U 4AA

T: 020 7208 9666
F: 020 7208 9670
bbc.co.uk/bbctrust

BBC Trust

From The Chairman

Dr Caroline Lucas MEP
Suite 58
The Hop Exchange
24 Southwark Street
London
SE1 1TY

5 February 2009

Our ref: 16225212



Thank you for your letter of 27 January regarding the BBC's decision not to air the Disaster Emergency Committee's (DEC) appeal for Gaza, and the impartiality of BBC coverage of recent events. I am sorry to hear of your concerns.

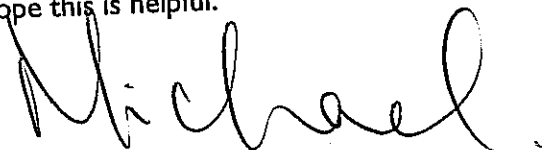
The BBC is required by the Royal Charter to deliver duly impartial news and to treat controversial subjects with due impartiality. The Trust is committed to making sure that the BBC fulfils this obligation.

What the Trust cannot do is engage in complaints about particular instances where listeners or viewers feel that the BBC has not been impartial in the first instance. The BBC's Charter makes clear that editorial decisions - and dealing with complaints about them - rest with the BBC Executive and Director-General. I am therefore passing your letter to the office of the Director-General for an initial response to your concerns on behalf of BBC Management.

The Trust has already received a large number of appeals against the BBC's decision not to show the DEC Gaza Crisis Appeal and is currently considering the matter. An ad hoc committee chaired by Richard Tait (Chairman of the Trust's Editorial Standards Committee) will make recommendations to the full Trust, which will in turn make a final judgment. The decision to hear these appeals via an ad hoc committee reflects the fact that the appeals may raise a range of issues, which may cut across the Trust's usual complaints handling boundaries.

The Trust will deal with this matter speedily and its decision will be posted on the Trust website, which you can find at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/>

I hope this is helpful.



Sir Michael Lyons
Chairman