



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Brendan Carr  
Chairman

November 19, 2025

Mr. Tim Davie  
Director General  
BBC

Ms. Katherine Maher  
CEO  
NPR

Ms. Paula Kerger  
President and CEO  
PBS

Dear Mr. Davie, Ms. Maher, and Ms. Kerger,

As you know, the BBC was recently caught intentionally distorting a speech that President Trump gave in January of 2021. It did so by splicing together one portion of the speech with an entirely separate portion of the speech that came 54 minutes later. In doing so, the BBC program depicts President Trump voicing a sentence that, in fact, he never uttered. That would appear to meet the very definition of publishing a materially false and damaging statement.

Indeed, there has now been widespread condemnation of the BBC's decision. A former independent external advisor to the BBC's Editorial Guidelines and Standards Committee, Michael Prescott, told the BBC that its decision "created the impression that Trump said something he did not and, in doing so, materially misled viewers." Likewise, the Prescott Report states that the BBC program was "neither balanced nor impartial—it seemed to be taking a distinctly anti-Trump stance." In sum, it was a "distortion of the day's events," the Prescott Report continued.

Both BBC Director General Davie and BBC CEO of News Deborah Turness have now indicated that they will be resigning. While the BBC has apologized for its decision, stating that the program created what it now acknowledges was a "mistaken impression," concerns remain.

Recently, the Chairman of Ofcom—the FCC's regulatory counterpart in the U.K.—Lord Grade called on the BBC to seriously examine the issues raised. For my part, as Chairman of the FCC, I am writing to determine whether any FCC regulations have been implicated by the BBC's misleading and deceptive conduct.

The BBC has stated that it has a number of partnerships with U.S. broadcasters, including PBS and NPR, to distribute BBC programming here in America. I am therefore writing to each of you to determine whether the BBC provided either the video or audio of the spliced speech to

NPR, PBS, or any other broadcaster regulated by the FCC for airing in the U.S. If so, please provide the FCC with transcripts and video of any such broadcasts of the relevant program.

As you may know, broadcasters regulated by the FCC have a legal obligation to operate in the public interest. Those public interest requirements include prohibitions on news distortion and broadcast hoax. After all, the FCC has stated that “rigging or slanting the news is a most heinous act against the public interest.” I am committed to holding broadcasters accountable to their public interest obligations, and your prompt response will help aid me in that effort.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B Carr", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brendan Carr