



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

I share your concerns about the use of the word 'Asian' by the news media. In some cases the news media does not fully take into account the multitude of faiths and ethnic groups on the Indian subcontinent. I agree that the BBC and the news media should endeavour to be more accurate in this case.

Please find enclosed a copy of the letter that I have written on your behalf to Mark Thompson, the BBC Director-General. I shall of course forward the response as soon as I receive it.

In the meantime, if there are any other matters that you would like to bring to my attention, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Gardiner
Member of Parliament for Brent North

Mark Thompson
BBC Director-General
Broadcasting House
Portland Place
London
W1A 1AA

20 June 2012

Dear Mr Thompson,

I write on behalf of my constituents, who are concerned about the BBC's coverage of the recent Rochdale child grooming case.

They are concerned about that the perpetrators were described as 'Asian' by the BBC and other news media. They are concerned about the use of this all encompassing term and the negative connotations this may have for other groups that are part of the Asian community in the UK.

I would be grateful if you could respond to my constituent's concerns and confirm whether the BBC will in the future look to use more accurate terms in the reporting of crimes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Gardiner
Member of Parliament for Brent North