Dear Name of MP,

I am one of your constituents and I am very concerned that the BBC looks set to end two local current affairs and politics programmes, Inside Out INSERT REGION and Sunday Politics REGION.

Inside Out was due to return back on air in September but the BBC has postponed production and is holding a review on its future as it looks to make savings. During Covid-19, Sunday Politics has been cut to one England wide programme and there are fears the BBC will not return to producing local broadcasts.

Inside Out INSERT REGION is part of an award-winning series of current affairs and investigative journalism. It represents outstanding value for the licence fee payer – with its stories frequently used by other parts of the BBC network. The cost of all 11 regional Inside Outs is £6m -- very little money in terms of the corporation’s overall budget.

Sunday Politics INSERT REGION is an opportunity to discuss local political issues with MPs, such as yourself, and other political representatives. It gives people the opportunity to discuss matters beyond the Westminster bubble; issues that directly affect them. It allows MPs, councillors and candidates to highlight issues and debate ideas, within a regional context. It allows journalists to hold local politicians to account.

If the BBC cuts these two local current affairs programmes it will be a major blow to democracy. People need to be familiar with their local representatives and local issues. Research has shown there is a link between lack of a local media and low voter turnout.

The journalists working on these programmes live and work in the community and provide invaluable insight and analysis into local decision making and its impact on residents across the region.

I am asking you to write to Tony Hall, BBC director general, TonyHallandPA@bbc.co.uk; Ken Macquarrie, Director of Nations and Regions, ken.macquarrie@bbc.co.uk; Helen Thomas, Head of BBC England, helen.thomas-england@bbc.co.uk; and Blair Mayne blair.mayne@bbc.co.uk requesting they don’t cut either programme, explaining that it would represent a major blow to local democracy, that by cutting either programme the BBC would be failing its remit and responsibility to provide regional programming and asking for a guarantee that the BBC remains committed to regional political reporting.

Yours sincerely