

Funding the Future

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As [the FT notes](#) this morning:

Ministers will explore mutualising the BBC as part of a review of funding options for the UK national broadcaster ahead of licence fee talks expected to begin next year, culture secretary Lisa Nandy said.

During her campaign for the Labour leadership in 2020, Nandy called for the corporation to be mutualised in order to give direct ownership and control to licence-fee payers who fund its work.

I am sure the story is very well-sourced.

I suspect that this is very firmly on the agenda.

So let's not, for one moment, be taken in by any of this. The aim here is not mutualisation to give people control of the BBC. It is to turn the BBC into a corporation where, in due course, every licence fee payer can be offered a lump sum to sell their share to a company wanting to take it over (let's assume it's a Murdoch enterprise) with Labour then hugging themselves in glee that they will have done a privatisation that will send a bung in the direction of millions of grateful people at no cost to themselves, whilst achieving their aim of providing an opportunity to one of their sponsors.

Please forgive my cynicism, but I cannot conceive of any other way to respond to this.

Do they really think we are stupid enough not to see what is going on here?