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Tom

Watson MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, commenting on a letter accusing the BBC of "pessimism" and "bias" in its coverage of Brexit, said:

"The

BBC is one of the world's finest news broadcasters and we should all value its

impartiality, integrity and balanced coverage. It is the BBC's job to report the facts, not to be a cheerleader for any cause or party.

"All

politicians sometimes dislike the way some stories are covered, but we should never seek to interfere with the independence of the BBC by publicly accusing it of bias and making implicit threats about its future.

"Theresa

May and Karen Bradley must make clear their commitment to the independence of the BBC and distance themselves from attacks on it by politicians who have an agenda the BBC does not and should not share."