

BBC Charter Review Consultation
D.C.M.S. 2-4 Cockspur St., SW1Y 5DH.

24/2/04.

Dear Sirs,

As a listener for 60 years, & a viewer for 40, I would like to offer my views on the BBC Charter Review.

VALUE: Over the years, the BBC's output of superb arts, news, educational & entertainment programmes has added immeasurably to my quality of life. I am sure this benefit has been enjoyed universally, wherever BBC broadcasts are received. The world would be a poorer place without this unique organisation.

QUALITY: At its best, the quality of BBC output is excellent. However, competition for audience ratings must be responsible for the disproportionate number of mentally undemanding TV programmes (eg. "make-overs", game shows, trivialised documentaries). The BBC must obviously provide some popular, easy programmes, but at present these are over-represented.

FUNDING: To combat the lowering of standards & to maintain political independence, I firmly support the licence fee. I think the majority of the public would continue to accept the fee if ① its value, as opposed to subscription, were publicised more often, ② BBC expenses (gimmicks, hospitality etc) were reduced, & ③ BBC TV offered a greater number of quality programmes.

ORGANISATION, TECHNOLOGY, COMMERCIAL SERVICES:
The Corporation has become so vast that I would question whether the technology & commerce do help finance quality programmes, or whether they drain resources from the BBC's principal function. Also, does such a complex organisation produce excessive bureaucracy?

REGULATION & ACCOUNTABILITY: The BBC is accountable to all citizens, so all classes of society should be represented on regulatory bodies.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Basey (Mrs.)