

RE: Consultation paper

What do I value most about the BBC?

Intelligent speech radio (R4), non-mainstream music (R3), and the perspective of the World Service. Also, comedy. What is covered less well - news and current affairs have been "dumbed down" in recent years.

Should the BBC run commercial services? Yes.
How should we pay for the BBC? The licence fee.

How should the BBC be run and regulated?
It should be run by Greg Dyke and regulated by itself.

How can we ensure the BBC is properly accountable?
By ensuring the independence of its governors.

From a recent edition of the Economist:
"But the viewing success was won by lowest denominator programs that pushed the idea of what a public service broadcaster should do to the limit."

The licence fee must be kept because the output of the BBC must not be influenced by market forces alone.

However, the BBC is not producing enough minority-interest programs. By that I mean programs that would only capture a small audience share, that commercial broadcasters would not be inclined to produce.

I cannot understand why Channel 4 are showing "Demolition Day" and "Scrapheap Challenge" while the BBC's "Great Egg Race" and "The Adventure Game" have been off the air for years.

We are saturated with commercial TV. If it is not the purpose of the BBC to produce programs with limited mass-audience appeal, then it ought to be. A proportion of its output should fill the gaps left by the mainstream.

The BBC should be beyond censure by Parliament, who are too much of a vested interest to be permitted to bully them.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Breidenbach