

25.3.04

Mr. D. BAILEY

CHARTER REVIEW

On a review and licence paper I would like to express my view of the BBC and how it fits into our society as a public service.

The BBC in its original form was admired and revered for its high standards and stuck to its brief to entertain and inform and not to offend public taste and decency in the content of its programmes.

Over the years they have lost sight of the fact that they are a public service and have lowered standards to compete with dubious public good television productions from commercial companies when this is not necessary as their funding is guaranteed.

If they as an organisation with their own agenda wish to compete with commercial companies they should fund themselves!

My problem with the BBC is that it has endeavoured to court controversy since the Lord Rothermere quote "pushing back the boundaries of acceptability" in programming content; with hours and hours of kitchen sink dramas that are depressing to say the least, wallowing in human misery, with the underlying message of hopelessness. Entertaining? with writers like Elton Bennett and Denis Potter, bordering on the pornographic with language to match.

If someone wishes to view this type of material

I have no objection to them paying and going to a cinema but many of the productions are totally unsuitable to be beamed into livingrooms nation wide where young people have access. The so called watershed is a joke, with clips of productions shown during the day. Their failure to read the public feeling has necessitated interim interdicts being taken out to prevent showings; its unremitting to public opinion, sign of arrogance, knows no bounds.

Outrage at interview giving the IRA a platform "described by the then prime minister Margaret Thatcher as the origin of publicity and more recently the Andrew Gilligan saga and resignation of Greg Dyke and more public disgust providing air time to the person accused of the murder of P.C. Blakelock put together with the sneering arrogant Jeremy Payman and the down right nasty Stan Robinson, your inability to attract viewers in numbers is obvious but you just don't get it!

Letters of complaint are treated as an exercise in apen: "sorry to have offended you, but we are showing the same next week." No you don't listen.

Shown recently on BBC 2 "Lost Jungs in Paris" totally unsuitable for television, you wouldn't understand.

The BBC would have to go through a radical culture change to be a true public broadcaster and to justify the tax payers money. But if it continues in the same vein it does not deserve to be funded. and frankly I see no evidence in past performance to think this is possible as you have lost your way.

I am sincerely,

D. Bulger