

31 March 2004

BBC Charter Review Consultation
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH

To Whom It May Concern,

In response to the leaflet "Your BBC Your Say" I wish to record that I have always valued the BBC's public service broadcasting. It's news is topical (almost to the minute), reliable and, on the whole, the comment is fair and knowledgeable. The sports coverage has been excellent but, unfortunately, the BBC is now banned from some events by commercial companies.

I should say at this point that I do not now own a television and therefore pay nothing for the excellent radio service, which far outshines my experience of TV in information, drama, comedy, music and news coverage. **I consider this "gift" to radio listeners to be grossly unfair and request the situation be altered - despite the expected unpopularity of a radio licence fee.** I cannot suggest an alternative to the current television licence fee, other than a levy on every TV and radio set sold, but this would be a cumbersome and costly undertaking, open to abuse and possible fraud.

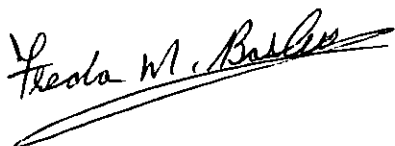
With regard to commercial services, these should be continued and, indeed, increased in order to finance and keep up the standards of the BBC. I particularly value The Radio Times, mainly because it gives the best programme detail for radio, particularly the cast lists for drama.

As to how the BBC should be run, it should maintain its present accuracy, impartiality and dissemination of knowledge without being over-ruled by Government nor adversely influenced by the personal agenda of people/organisations with commercial or political axes to grind. It should be completely independent. How else will it be trusted by listeners in other countries to the BBC World Service - often their only truthful source of information of what is going on in their own countries?

I wish to register a protest against the recent BBC ruling forbidding its journalists from writing for other media, particularly newspapers. I subscribe to The Independent and am most annoyed to be deprived of such masterly journalists as Fergal Keane, Andrew Marr, David Aaronavitch and many others.

I am aware that today is the deadline for receipt of these comments but hope that, with first class postage, my letter might still be considered as a contribution to the Review Consultation.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs F M Baslev