

From: Guy Beauchamp  
Sent: 13 December 2003 08:08  
To: BBC Charter Review  
Subject: BBC Charter Review - response to key questions

What do you value most about the BBC?  
Independence and objectivity.

How should the BBC adapt to cope with changes in technology and culture?  
Embrace them - Luddites are always consigned to the history books. The BBC website is one of the best on the web and is my homepage.

What do you think of the television, radio and online services the BBC provides?

Overall: 7/10 (compared to ITV's 4/10).

Not enough documentary and un-sensationalist news reporting.

Interviews with politicians are an utter waste of time as they are so predictable.

The public debate by members of the public on air that the BBC gets going - especially on radio - should be developed and spread to TV.

Should the BBC run commercial services?

As it does now, yes. I would hate to see the BBC dependant on these activities.

How should we pay for the BBC? Is the licence fee the best method or can you suggest any alternative?

Proportion of income tax - that way those that can afford to pay do, those that can't don't.

Is the BBC organised in the most effective and efficient way?

Probably not - how would I know as I am outside the BBC? It certainly does not have a good reputation in this area. All other massive organisations have a similar profile in this area...I can only conclude that the 'human condition' requires this idiocy which we just have to learn to live with...

How should the BBC be governed and regulated?

"Board of governors" good, dual responsibility for "overseeing internally and public interest" bad. This could (and probably does) lead to conflict of interest - e.g. the sexed up Andrew Gillingham saga...so two Board of Governors - one for each role.

How do we ensure that the BBC is properly accountable to the public and Parliament? Should the public have a greater say and influence on the BBC? It shouldn't be accountable to the public (ITV can do that stuff) or to the (self-selecting power obsessed) politicians (as it would be putting Dracula in charge of the blood bank).

So, an independent Board of Governors dedicated to ensuring that the BBC continues to fulfil it's charter.

...and finally: the BBC is one of the best British products we have. Please please please try not to screw it up as per Health Service, Utilities, Transport, Environment, Social Services and so on (and on and on) with the mindless management paradigm of products and profit...

Regards,  
Guy Beauchamp