

Sent: 13 December 2003 12:26
To: BBC Charter Review
Subject: BBC CHARTER REVIEW

Respect for the BBC as it is operating currently is undermined when it proposes to drop programmes such as Correspondent. I am a strong supporter of public service broadcasting paid by the licence fee but I find it difficult to believe that the BBC is catering to all sectors when it appears to concentrate so much programme time on populist soaps. I have to say that I find less and less worth watching on most of the channels because I believe the standards applied several years ago allowed for more intelligent and indeed fun programming. On major issues of the day the BBC carries little genuine presentation and analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of proposals. For example where has there been any on screen or on radio presentation of the main points of the proposed European Union and where the key points of issue lie? We end up with commentary and no presentation of the facts and the arguments. Educating people in the main issues of the day should be a primary role of the BBC. In its news reporting and analysis notably Radio 4 the emphasis is on confronting politicians (John Humphries in particular seems to set the standard). I want to hear politicians being questioned thoroughly but fairly so that they can discuss issues and not feel or be allowed to get away with for that matter poor thinking. I miss seeing variety entertainment as well. What has happened to that type of show, which had as one of its attributes that it could appeal to the whole family.

Regards,

Paul Beavers