

Dear Sir,

BBC Charter Review Public Consultation

In response to the questions in the leaflet 'Your BBC Your Say', I have the following comments to make.

I have always looked to the BBC to provide a variety of excellent quality services, and until recent years, I have not been disappointed. However, I have become increasingly dismayed at the way BBC reporting and presentation, especially on TV, has emulated the style of commercial companies as has the kind of programme provided.

I would like news presented in a less emotive manner and current affairs discussions screened earlier in the evening.

Stimulating and thought provoking programmes, well researched and in depth science and natural history programmes, documentaries, drama (especially period drama) and situation comedy of the standard we used to enjoy in the 1970's, are the kind of programmes I value.

So often, programmes which might once have been repeated later in the year are rushed into DVD or video format, and this is regrettable.

There seem to be far too many 'quick fix' makeover and dream fulfilment programmes, but I enjoy those with suggestions for realistic lifestyle improvements.

When reflecting on a film or programme which has just ended, the titles and music are interrupted by announcements of future programmes. This infuriates me and detracts from my enjoyment of the programme just ended; rather than draw my attention to future programmes, I become disinterested and annoyed at the interruption.

I would like to see a return of the excellent quality childrens's drama serials of the standard which used to be shown on Sunday afternoons, and educational but fun children's science programmes in the after school viewing slot.

The BBC does an excellent service in providing educational programmes for people of all ages, and I hope very much that in the future we shall not have to rely on having internet access or interactive television facilities in order to access these.

In order to maintain the high standard and distinctiveness of the services provided by the BBC, I am in favour of maintaining the licence fee. It is, as Sir David Attenborough commented in the recent BBC discussion programme about the future of the BBC, like all other community facilities, a service worth contributing to.

In my opinion the Governors should be independent of the Executive, to avoid conflict of interests. Impartiality and independence are of paramount importance in the regulation of the BBC. The Governors have a difficult role, at present and should have a professional secretariat to advise on technical matters affecting the internal running of the organisation.

I think that there are sufficient and effective procedures for the public and Parliament to influence the BBC and would not wish to see any alterations made to the present systems.

If our views are listened to and acted upon, it really will be **our** BBC, a heritage which we would all be proud of.

Yours sincerely,

E.M. Bennett