



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

29th March 2004

Dear Sir

Your BBC – Your Say

Reference the recent BBC Charter Review Consultation leaflet I would comment as follows:-

What do you value most about the BBC?

News coverage is very good but too much time is given to trivia items and with too much repetition! Reporting seems to concentrate on 'sensational' news and not enough on 'good' news. The BBC has a unique opportunity to influence our nation by producing and reporting on good inspirational, educational, cultural programmes etc, i.e. you could present the best side of life instead of the 'murky' side! There seems to be little room for Christian programmes (indeed there seems to be a bias against). Sports reporting is good but there is an overbalance on football compared to other sports.

How should the BBC adapt to cope with changes in technology and culture?

There are many people who have digital television and the internet, particularly the elderly, who are unaware how to use them. Programmes giving instruction and advice as to how to use them would help to overcome this! They could be used to generate feedback on programmes, quickly! Convey consensus of opinion, generate debate and provide information services.

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

Television and radio services currently provide a good variety of services and programmes but the quality of many could be very much better. Reporting often seems biased and edited to present particular points of view! Interviewers are too aggressive and do not give those interviewed time to respond in full. They seem more intent on bullying a response than obtaining truth!

There is far too much bad and foul language, too much explicit sexual behaviour. You can't seem to make a film or play without it including a bedroom scene which doesn't add anything to the plot!

As a 'Christian' nation with over 60% of the population indicating that they believe in God there is a disappointing coverage of 'Christian affairs'!

Could be more and better 'Family Life' and Good Parenting' programmes. Would like to see more 'clean' fun and good humour programmes, i.e 'The Two Ronnies', 'Open all hours', 'The Good Life', 'Morecam & Wise' etc.

Should the BBC run commercial services?

£123m into public services, can't be doing a very good job. I'm only aware of the TV Times and DVD's!

How should we pay for the BBC?

The Licence Fee system seems as good as any.

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

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How should the BBC be run? How should it be regulated?

The BBC should be run to uphold decency and good living not to cater for the 'lowest common denominator'! Cut out foul and bad language, abusive behaviour, and most violence.

Pay attention to public criticism, take notice of complaints.

There should be a separate body to regulate for the public interest so that there is no conflict of interests with the running and management of the BBC.

How do we ensure that the BBC is properly accountable to the public and Parliament?

Yes, the public should have a greater say and influence on the BBC, and should be independent of political bias. This could be achieved through the greater use of feedback, i.e. via the internet and digital TV interaction. An independent body, regulator (as above) could be set up to take account of and monitor public interest and act accordingly. To be influenced by the public comment and not by ratings!

The BBC should promote:-

- 1) Family Life
- 2) Truth and honesty
- 3) Love and faithfulness
- 4) Sport and fitness
- 5) Fun and laughter
- 6) Music and singing (not just pop!), orchestra and choir
- 7) Country life, and animal life
- 8) Adventure and exploration
- 9) History and archaeology
- 10) Drama, comedy, music (country, jazz, classical etc.)
- 11) Documentary and educational
- 12) 'Brains' competitions etc.
- 13) True life stories – success and conquest etc.
- 14) Gardening and cooking
- 15) Children's programmes
- 16) Family variety shows, musical shows
- 17) Art and science
- 18) DIY – electrical, plumbing, painting, decorating etc.

Yours faithfully

Gloria Bessent (Mrs)