

3rd March, 2004.

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

Dear Sirs,

I picked up the "Your Say" document in the local library. I shall comment only on Key Questions 1, 7 and 8.

1. WHAT DO I VALUE ABOUT BBC News, Documentaries and Educational coverage. I have no interest in sport and little in the arts.
7. HOW SHOULD THE BBC BE RUN/REGULATED I don't have any view on the running of the BBC but under "regulation" I am concerned about "standards".

Accuracy/Impartiality and fair trading are of course important but I see nothing about standards of morality/decency. This is a most important area as public broadcasting has such an influence on citizens, especially the young. I am horrified about the ever increasing use of offensive language. People, especially the young, hear it and assume it is the norm, if its on TV then its OK to use such language in public as well as in private.

The portrayal of lax sexual activity in such as the 'SOAPS' must have a huge negative effect on young peoples perception of what is permissible in society. I think that broadcasting, particularly television, is responsible for influencing the young to experiment sexually with so often dire results in terms of disease and generally irresponsible behaviour; all this at great cost to society in respect of money and general disintegration.

The other area so often complained about is violence and here again the portrayal of fictional violence often leads those, especially the young, to mimic what is seen.

The BBC has the very great responsibility of broadcasting programmes that are wholesome and tend towards the encouragement of responsible living and good citizenship. Such I believe was the ethos of the BBC when it first came into existence. Just to reflect poor behaviour in society is not good enough and as for trash programmes, they should never see the light of day.

8. BBC ACCOUNTABILITY I think the public should have more say especially on programme content by committees of ordinary citizens, also views obtained by surveys which could be carried out by independent organisations.

Yours faithfully,

John C. Bland.