

Response to DCMS leaflet "Your BBC Your Say".

Above all, we value the independence of the BBC from party politics and external commercial interests, and would fight any changes which could compromise this independence. The BBC must at all costs maintain it's impartiality and the method of funding must ensure this.

My wife and I normally always watch BBC news programmes and also BBC natural history, sports, arts programmes, plays and in depth news reports. We have concerns that the BBC should not in an effort to increase it's viewing figures "dumb down" its programmes. Best quality is not revealed in such statistics. We would welcome an increase in "in depth" reports, believing for example that while the biggest threat to man's health and even existence is global warming, it has very little exposure on the media. Perhaps amongst the media the BBC is best placed to raise awareness of this issue.

Living in Berkshire, we feel that BBC South news covers too large an area and usually has little news local to us.

The BBC seems to be coping well with technology changes. I regularly access the BBC web site which is extensive and very useful.

We believe that the BBC must continue the Radio Times and CD's etc of its own programmes, but not extend beyond this.

The licence fee must be the best way to pay for the BBC and ensure it's continuing independence.

We have no strong views about how the BBC should be run, however, mistakes such as the now famous Andrew Gilligen report need to be avoided. It appears that more rigorous application of the already in place guidelines would have been appropriate.

Regulation can only be by a body which is clearly independent of political and commercial bias.

Finally, we would not wish to see commercial breaks on the BBC.

*H R Borlace*

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Mr and Mrs H R Borlace