

From: Pam Boughton
Sent: 13 December 2003 09:41
To: BBC Charter Review
Subject: BBC Charter Review

To anyone who feels the BBC should Not be funded by the public I would say "Have you watched any American or European T.V. recently?' American t.v in particular, when programmes, regardless of quality, are constantly interrupted by endless advertisements. It ruins any continuity or enjoyment. In the end, you just want to switch off. With both USA and European commercial broadcasters, there are question marks over quality and independence. I feel that the BBC represents, in spite of some flaws, a balanced and independent view of current affairs and news, and is able to provide a range of programmes of outstanding quality, far superior to most commercial broadcasters.

As the choice of programmes widens, some feel it is not 'fair' that they should pay for a service they do not use. However, there are many public services that are not used by all, and we all pay towards their upkeep, for the greater good to the community as a whole. NHS or public transport, for example. Not perfect institutions, but where would we be without them?

I have lived in countries where censorship and biased reporting of current affairs and news are the norm. BBC World Service was a lifeline.

Independence and quality are the hallmarks of the BBC, and if we have any sense, we should fight to protect it. The BBC deserves our funding and support.

Pam Boughton