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It seems to me that the license fee is the best way of funding the BBC, but its role in the Broadcasting spectrum must be rigorously reviewed.

At the moment the programmes offered on the two main channels are, by and large, only relating to a comparatively small area of the many activities and interests which occupy the attention of the population at large: there is a large preponderance of time occupied by sport.

To justify the license fee, programming should consider a wide range of minority interests: after all, only programmes having an audience of upwards of 30 million are of majority interest.

How many of these are there?

My main interest is in the arts in general, and music in particular, and here I have some specific comments and suggestions.

1. Radio 3. This seems to be competing with classic FM with a consequent narrowing of repertoire

With regard to contemporary music, what is broadcast is overwhelmingly S.E. England based. I know that there is good work being done in the other English regions as well as Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland, but this is not represented.

It appears that radio three, while nominally a national service, is a regional S.E. England service in terms of contemporary British music.

2. The main BBC TV channels do little to promote serious music on a day to day basis. Recently one newspaper made the point that in a given week arts programmes had a 30 minute slot while in the same period drama had $47\frac{1}{2}$ hours coverage.
This is not an isolated example.
3. News bulletins regularly include information about sport. Why does the BBC not do, what certain European broadcasting organisations do, and include arts coverage (I mean real arts coverage) as a regular ingredient in news programmes.
4. In an age when the BBC is financed by the tax-payer and many arts organisations are similarly financed - e.g. orchestras, art galleries, opera companies and some theatres, it would be equitable if these organisations, as part of their subsidy were obliged to make their products available to the nation on television, and the BBC as the only nationally subsidised TV provider should take these events as a matter of course, so that people who help to pay for these events are able to avail themselves of these facilities.

BBC. Welsh Region

One big bone of contention in Wales is the Welsh channel S4C. The main problem is that monoglot English speakers are deprived of Channel 4 and there is a resentment about the Welsh channel.

It would help the cause of the Welsh language if both S4C and channel 4 were available

With regard to the Arts in Welsh Broadcasting

1. Television

Apart from a few institutional events such as the National Eisteddfod, arts programmes rarely appear on Welsh Television. Even the excellent BBC National Orchestra of Wales rarely appears, and when it does, its coverage of home grown music is almost non-existent. A number of the orchestra I have spoken to complain about the situation.

2. Sound

Here there is a complete lack of Arts programmes, and little understanding of what is going on in Wales.

For instance, each summer there are events involving the National Youth Choir, the National Youth Brass Band, the National Youth Orchestra, the National Youth Theatre and the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, all of which are ignored by the BBC in Llandaff. Why?

I firmly support the BBC and the idea of a licence fee. However, the BBC must earn the right to this by maintaining standards and not competing for the lower end of the commercial market as it has been doing during the last few years.

If it wishes to go down that road it must forego government finance, and let some other organisation provide public service broadcasting where the emphasis is on 'Service'.

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