

BBC Charter Review Consultation
Dept for Culture Media and Sport
204 Cockspur St
LONDON
SW1Y 5DH

6 March 2004

Dear Sirs

What I value most about the BBC Radio 4 is the news, weather forecast, reviews, travel, Start the Week, Libby Purves Midweek, Desert Island Discs, short stories, short plays, health.

BUT there is too much coverage of the American elections.

Too many Scottish voices, it is just not representative.

Every time I switch on there is a Scottish voice – just at random here is a few instances: - Open Country – Scottish presenter in Warwickshire, Open Book 19.2.04 interviewed a Scottish author, James Naughtie, Liz Barclay on Yoo and Yooors, Damien Thompson, Scottish presenter interviewing a Welsh farmer 1.30 4.3.04, Andrew Neil 8.50 on 25th February. Scottish voice interviewing Clare Short on World at One 27.2.04 Scottish newsreaders saying Boosh for Bush. It is very irritating for English people.

There are only 4 million approx Scots out of about 56 million – you are not fair to the English. England is never ever mentioned as a country – please try to be fair. A soft Midlands accent, or Somerset, Devon, Norfolk, Hampshire, Kent is easier on the ear to us than the

broad Scottish people you keep putting on. They are so broad we can hardly understand them.

The weather forecasters seem to gabble at a great pace so we can hardly get the gist of it. Is it because you do not allow them enough time before the trailers? Most people tune in to the weather and like to hear a bit more detail at a slower pace. The forecasters spend ages (especially Michael Foot) on detailing the Scottish Islands then say "England and Wales.." KISH

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You have not been impartial about the Iraq War, you are blatantly anti-American, anti Bush, anti British. It incenses me the way you report how many Iraqi people were killed (not many as wars go) and always with an anti American/British bias. You are paid by the British licence fee, please try to be pro British or at least not anti British. Our Boys were out there fighting the war.

You do not meet the standards of impartiality at all. This is the way a lot of people hear it.

We (my friends family and me) get the impression that the BBC is full of left wing liberal thinkers. Get rid of John Humphries, David and Jonathan Dimbleby, Jennie Murray – they have been there too long and are paid far too much. Recruit some younger, bright, well-adjusted mature people and pension off the pensioners!

Please give more time to discussions on religion especially Christianity, and ensure that the thought for the day is for the most part someone with a Christian outlook. Our country's history and laws are based on the Ten Commandments and the Christian tenets. Do not underestimate people's quest for God.

Having said all this, I think the BBC especially Radio 4, does a very good job!

Yours faithfully



(Mrs) A Burton