

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

31st March 2004.

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

Below are some points which we would like to contribute to the current consultation on the renewal of the BBC charter..

The BBC should be congratulated for the quality of its output in the many areas in which it operates.

The BBC should continue to be funded by licence money. The BBC belongs to the Nation and funds need to be collected on an equipment/household basis.

Licence money is currently claimed from each household that has a television receiver. It should also be claimed from each household that has a television receiver card in a personal computer, in case there is no conventional receiver. Payment should be made for usage of the BBC web & BBCi services, by charging for them on personal computers.

BBC Television should continue to be free to air on both terrestrial and satellite platforms. Subscription television is divisive and encourages a populist approach to what is broadcast. It is very important that the BBC continues to make programmes which have minority interests and which often tackle uncomfortable issues.

In these days of increased mobility, and people having to move away from their native areas because of job relocation, it is important that regional programmes should continue to be available to all on satellite.

Television Sports Coverage should be negotiated on a national basis.

The BBC should not have to pay anything to Sky or any other private company which do not directly own transmission platforms, for the delivery of their programmes as this is a waste of public money. Existing payments to Crown Castle and Astra, which own the platforms must continue.

The BBC should sever all connections with UKTV and broadcast all its backlog of archive material on its own channels. It must continue to promote and sell its own CDs and DVDs. The BBC has every right to take part in commercial enterprises which make it more self sufficient and independent from government whims. No other private company should make a profit at the BBC's expense from BBC material as the BBC belongs to the Nation.

The BBC should continue to promote BBCi through the web and text services, both nationwide and worldwide. BBC World should have no connections with private companies. The BBC ought to explain more regularly and widely the new technologies that are available because they are beginning to baffle ordinary viewers. The corporation should be careful in their promotion of the computer and internet as the only methods of accessing local radio stations, and collecting points of view because this tends to alienate those who do not possess this technology.

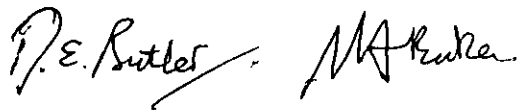
The BBC is to be congratulated on its careful research and attention to detail in factual and historical drama and most areas of broadcasting reach a very high standard. Please be aware that the viewing public is intelligent and programmes should continue to be challenging and thought provoking.

The Governors of the BBC need to be rigorous and real critical friends. There should be a separation between their duties and the internal management of the corporation. The public do not need to be too

deeply involved with the running of the BBC but those chosen as governors should be aware of the needs of broadcasters but also prepared to speak out and prevent a repeat of recent events and the Hutton enquiry. The BBC and its governors should have clear guidelines as to the roles each is required to do to prevent a public airing of systems failures as happened with Hutton.

Above all, the BBC should be fiercely independent of government. Politicians come and go but the broadcasting service fulfils a constant need for the public to have a clear understanding of world events. It should above pressures to broadcast what is comfortable to the political power in office. In times of strife and suffering we need to know that our public broadcasting service is working for the positive good in giving a thorough coverage of world events without fear or favour within the confines of official safety.

Yours faithfully,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is 'D.E. Butler' and the second signature on the right is 'M.A. Butler'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

D.E and M.A. Butler.