

From: clyde baker  
Sent: 13 December 2003 03:55  
To: BBC Charter Review  
Subject: Charter review - opinion

You asked for opinions on the charter review - here are mine. I think the BBC ought to expand its commercial activities to subsidise the public services. I believe the licence fee should stay but not be increased by more than inflation. The licence liberates the BBC from the worst of the crass and invidious commercial pressures that it would be subjected to if it were a purely commercial company. The licence keeps the BBC independent - what credibility would it have if it were funded directly by the government though general tax? Perish the thought! The independence the licence gives allows more forward looking and controversial programmes to be shown that more conservative commercial sponsors would not fund or back. I wonder whether Monty Python or Dr. Who would have ever existed with out the BBC.

The things I most value about the BBC is its news, current affairs and Documentaries. Particularly the news I particularly relish the attacks from both the left and right wings of politics who alternately accuse the BBC of being a hotbed of radical socialists or alternatively a bastion of "the establishment." John Humphries is not biased (much) he has a go at everybody regardless of their opinions and position. I mention John Humphries as he symbolises (to me) what the BBC stands for; reasonableness, and fair analysis of any given situation, with fairness to both sides in any debate. Apart from the today programme I also am a big fan of the BBC website, I use it as my home page. I find it more useful than any other reference programme on my computer.

I am not very proud of a lot that goes on in this country but the BBC stands for / symbolises everything that is good about Britain, it is something to be proud of. Allow it to continue to evolve, don't force an unnatural change that might weaken its integrity and consequently its place in our national life.  
Clyde Baker

PLEASE NOTE: THE ABOVE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED FROM THE INTERNET.

On entering the GSI, this email was scanned for viruses by the Government Secure Intranet (GSI) virus scanning service supplied exclusively by Cable & Wireless in partnership with MessageLabs.

GSI users see <http://www.gsi.gov.uk/main/notices/information/gsi-003-2002.pdf> for further details. In case of problems, please call your organisational IT helpdesk