

09 February 2004

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Your BBC, Your Say:

I would like the BBC to be really free from government control, this includes not giving way to pressure from government just because they are nice or may be the DG's personal friends. Since That Was The Week That Was was axed, real political comment with any bite has disappeared from the BBC. Point scoring is not political debate.

I would like the BBC to reflect those among us who cannot afford any extra channels beyond the 4 terrestrial ones; or five if you happen to be living in the right area. To remember that many of us who pay our license fee, do not have and cannot afford digital anything.

I would not mind in the least if all soaps, sports and inane sitcoms were moved to other channels; those I cannot get. Along with equally inane quiz shows where people are encouraged to be rude and the ability to remember facts is thought to be anything to do with knowledge. All repeats and a great many fly-on-the-wall shows could also go there. A few good plays, some really educational and informative programmes and some films are what I would really like to see. I have no desire to see 24 hour news coverage and cannot believe the BBC is serious with it's advertisement where a young man declares that having 24 hour news coverage puts him in control. He is no more in control than any of us with a remote; knowing the news that the BBC chooses to give us, does not put anyone of us in control of anything. Someone should have a word with him and while they are about it, suggest that he take control of his hairdresser. The 24 hour news channel must be about as much use to us as having a nuclear deterrent; it's expensive and only serves to boost the egos of those in power.

As for ways to pay for the BBC, could the lottery be considered? After all, it has supported opera etc.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Clifford

