

10th February, 2004

BBC Charter Review.

Dear Sir

I give below my responses to some of your key questions

1) What do I value about the BBC?

a) It is owned by all of us who subscribe by license. This is public service broadcasting; there can be no other definition.

b) It can therefore afford to offer excellence and innovation in music, drama, and education, to encourage new talent, and to cater for minorities.

No commercial firm, with an eye on profits, and the interests of its proprietors, shareholders and advertisers, can do these things.

c) It still provides one of the few remaining truly national broadcast channels helps to unite us - we all turn to the BBC at times of national or international crisis. It is trusted by more of us than any other institution.

5 How should we pay for the BBC?

of course by the licence fee. What else? Advertising revenue? Who would the BBC then serve? Advertisers, of course.

6) Is ~~to~~ the BBC organised in the most effective and efficient way? I don't know. It certainly seems to work better than the railways, road transport, the press, independent television and the cinema industry, and is more transparent than any of these.

7) How should the BBC be regulated?

Certainly not by an external body, with other responsibilities. There already is a Broadcasting Standards Commission, which adjudicates on specific complaints. Isn't that enough?

In conclusion -

The domestic and world services of the BBC are widely recognised for their high quality and fairness.

Criticisms of the BBC are various enemies - the Rupert Murdoch and his empire of newspapers and laundry television - until recently, Conrad Black, who was.

maybe still is - trying to out
do each other.

Each political party in this
country has complained of
bias & inaccuracy - which
means that the BBC has
probably got it mostly right.
I would mention Mr. Norman
Tebbit, Mrs. Thatcher, Mr.
Alistair Campbell, Mr. Bernard
Ingram - circling the BBC like
wolves. I know who I believe!

I am sure you don't want to
read a handwritten letter on
winking paper - I, indeed, you've
read this at all - so will
stop.

Yours sincerely
Ruth Cole.