

26<sup>TH</sup> February 2004.

**Re: Leaflet - Your BBC Your Say**

I have a copy of the above leaflet and am interested in the idea of input from listeners and viewers. I take the points in which I am interested as they arise in the leaflet.

Value - The BBC is extremely good value for money. I enjoy listening to Radios 3, 4 and World Service, sometimes Radio 2. I prefer to watch BBC television because the adverts. on the commercial channels break continuity and dramatic tension too much. I have to say that there are times when I find little to interest me but realise that the BBC has to cater for a wide audience.

One thing I would like is for there to be one or two dedicated Sports channels so that BBC2, for instance, could again concentrate on serious drama, music and art. There are not enough of these programmes for my liking, and an awful lot of sport especially at weekends.

Technology - I wish the BBC would get on and make digital broadcasting available everywhere in Britain. I live in Faversham and apparently there are no plans to cover this area. I find it annoying that a lot of the programmes I would like to see are on BBC4. It rubs salt into the wound that there are many trailers for programmes we are unable to access.

Commercial Services - NO, no, please. See my first paragraph. The amount of commercial activity at the moment is about right. Don't even think about putting commercials into programmes.

Paying for the BBC - I prefer the licence fee, with a possible reduction for people on low incomes. There is an infamous campaign being waged at present against the licence fee by powerful vested interests who see rich pickings for themselves. I would like to see a more aggressive defence of the licence because we get wonderful value for our money, even if we can't access everything we would like to.

Organisation - Personally I think the organisation is basically sound but I would like to see more independence in the matter of appointments.

How should it be run? Independent as far as possible from political interference. I really would like to see the top posts filled by persons other than Prime Ministerial appointments, elected by a more democratic process. Until recently I felt the BBC was run very well but that was before the grovelling apology after Hutton. Politicians need to remember that they will not always be in power and a strong, independent BBC should serve everyone.

Accountability: I am not sure how the BBC can be properly accountable to the public and Parliament other than what it is doing at the moment. More "accountability" often means more money wasted on bureaucracy which could be spent on programmes. The public are able to have their say through "Feedback", "You and Yours", various phone-ins or by writing or 'phoning directly to the BBBC.

Finally I have been very grieved to see how the Corporation has been traduced by politicians. As an opponent of the war in Iraq I felt that my interests were hardly over-represented, especially as there were very many of us protesting against the war. The BBC seemed to me to be fairly pro-war and supportive of politicians and military. The fact that both sides feel under-represented probably means the BBC got it about right.

I hope there will be no attempt to take away the licence fee or introduce advertising. The BBC is still widely admired and trusted here and across the world and needs to be supported and encouraged. Anyone who has travelled to another country and tried to watch television in those countries must realise what a great treasure we have in the BBC.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Freda Costa".

Freda Costa.