

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

March 28th 2004

Dear Sirs

We, here value the BBC for its understanding of our heritage, its reporting of news and the arts. We feel that 'sport' is not news, it is about a game and perspective is lost when it is given undue prominence – as is so often the case.

We deplore the moderate but incessant left-wing bias, the pro-liberal, anti-establishment, anti-religion attitude of BBC current affairs. There is a case for not biting the hand that feeds you, all the time anyway. We wish that all speculation should be removed from 'news' reports – speculation is not news – more reporting and less making of news please.

The 'liberal' bias shows in the steady erosion of good manners, loss of clear diction, increasing foul language, and disgusting behaviour portrayed as 'normal' or 'true-to-life' on BBC programmes. This is where, in particular, the BBC has lost its way. We need the BBC to uphold decency, honesty, goodness, and fidelity as worthwhile banners for society to follow when all commercial channels are reducing filth to the lowest common denominator.

We will pay a licence fee to show the nation how to progress and improve, otherwise the BBC can sink with the rest of the rubbish we don't watch. The BBC seriously needs to get a grip on making a difference positively and stop trying to compete with sleaze and degradation – the licence fee permits you to be different.

We believe that the BBC has a unique advantage in enjoying the freedom which the Licence Fee gives, so we approve retention of the licence fee for the core business = broadcasting. We have no objection to the BBC making money from fringe activities or selling videos or programmes to other franchise holders, or

making collaborative programmes. Commercial operations of this nature are quite acceptable.

Concerning the internal running of the BBC, I think it's clear that the Governors were unprepared for the unprecedented Gilligan affair and probably mishandled it. However, they should stop beating themselves up about it, everyone makes mistakes and it can be the quickest way to learn. So, probably the BBC needs an Executive Branch to handle programme issues leaving the Governors their overview and final powers. That way the Governors can always hold management to account for error, as it is in most organisations. These comments ignore all other normal functions of course.

If the BBC will once more uphold basic standards as one of the pillars of our crumbling society then, keep the public out – lowering the tone to that of the gutter public will simply exacerbate the problem. If you let the public will determine what you do, we shall no longer subscribe. There are still a lot of people who detest endless filth and violence on TV. To influence society for the better is one role the BBC can perform, but it has to have the vision and the will to do so. This perhaps IS a new role for the Governors, to determine the vision for a better future, not a worse one.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R F Chadwick', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

R F Chadwick

Your BBC – Your say : BBC Charter Review - public consultation by DCMS 2004

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is asking the British public to give its views on the BBC now and in the future. The BBC's activities are governed by a Royal Charter – a document that shapes what the BBC is for, what it does and how it does it. A review of the BBC, called the Charter review is now being carried out. Once it is completed, the DCMS will be able to consider what the BBC of the future will look like.

Anyone with a television pays for the BBC through its licence fee. That gives them a stake in its future. Since 1927, a review has been carried out every 10 years or so to see how the BBC is serving the public and to consider its future.

You can play a role in this review by letting the DCMS know what you think. Your views matter. Nothing is ruled in or out of the review. It's your BBC; have your say. (More info' is on the BBC & Charter review website - www.bbccharterreview.org.uk or at local libraries.)

KEY QUESTIONS

To help people think about the BBC, the DCMS have drawn up a list of key questions. They want you to send them your responses. Their key questions have been set out here as a questionnaire by mediamarch, with space provided for your comments, thus making it easier for you to respond.

Please note you do NOT have to respond to every question. (If you need more space, continue on the back of this sheet.) The questions are:

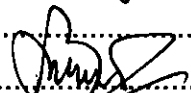
- **What do you value most about the BBC?** e.g. is it the news, sports, arts or educational coverage? How well does it serve different nations, regions and communities in the UK? What subjects does it cover less well?
- **How should the BBC adapt to cope with changes in technology and culture?** e.g. how should it take account of the rise in use of the internet or digital TV?
- **What do you think of the TV, radio and online services the BBC provides?** What changes if any would you like to see?
- **Should the BBC run commercial services?** The BBC produces magazines like The Radio Times and DVDs of popular programmes like The Office. Its main commercial arm, BBC Worldwide, put £123m back into public services in 2002/03. Do you think the BBC should continue running commercial operations?
- **How should we pay for the BBC?** Is the licence fee the best method or can you suggest any alternative?
- **Is the BBC organised in the most effective and efficient way?** Is it set up to provide the very best services for the public?
- **How should the BBC be run? How should it be regulated?** The BBC's Governors currently have a dual role. First, overseeing how the BBC is run internally. Secondly, regulating on behalf of the public interest, e.g. making sure it meets standards of accuracy, impartiality and fair trading. Is this the best approach?
- **How do we ensure that the BBC is properly accountable to the public and to Parliament?** Should the public have a greater say and influence on the BBC? If so, how?

Other Comments (continue on back of this sheet if necessary):

See Attached letter.

Name: RF Chadwick

Address: 'Steynes', Madeira Rd, Littleton, Kent TN288QZ

Signature: 

**Return this sheet to: BBC Charter Review Consultation, Department for Culture, Media and Sport,
2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH Tel: 020 7211 6418 Email: bbccharterreview@culture.gsi.gov.uk**

The DCMS aim to publish all responses within 10 working days of receipt. You can request that your response be kept confidential. You can also give your views directly to Ministers at public meetings being held across the UK. See Charter review website for details.

Closing date for your response to arrive at DCMS : March 31st 2004