

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

**10 February 2004**

**Dear Madame,**

**In the past the things that were most valued about the BBC were its independence from the political parties. I have particularly enjoyed the educational, documentary, comedy and until recently Sport.**

**Its internet services are very good.**

**Since 1997 I have been aware of the outrageous interference by the Government. The Secretary of State has by her own body language and perceived tone appeared to hold the Corporation to ransom by continually having a throw away line concerning the Charter. I have also been aware that instructions went out from Government to the Corporation stating that the name of an MP, who has twice been ejected from Ministerial Posts, was not to be mentioned on a particular satire show.**

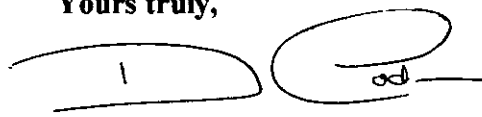
**The Corporation has been continually receiving directives from the Communications Director at No. 10 and more recently the Prime Minister has tried to lean on the BBC.**

**I would consider that when a programme goes out that has received interference ,it should include a statement to the effect that it had Governmental input and that a narrative of the input be included read by an actor.**

**There is no doubt that the present Government has abused its power over the media whilst in office, and a worrying trend is developing since the new Chairman of the Governors has taken over.**

**The new Charter must ensure the BBC is free again from political interference.**

**Yours truly,**

  
**D. COCKRAM**