

From: T Collier  
Sent: 16 December 2003 20:00  
To: BBC Charter Review  
Subject: Protect our BBC

I am deeply worried about the future of the BBC. I feel it is under threat from many powerful forces which have no interest in the rich cultural life of Britain, but are purely motivated by personal profit and power. The BBC stands as a bulwark against people who exploit the media to advance their own opinions and influence; we weaken the BBC's position at our peril.

I see nothing wrong with the way the BBC is funded or administered, and I am more than happy to pay my license fee to ensure that I get access to quality programming. (I only wish I could get BBC4 without paying extra -- but you can't have everything.)

My only complaint about the BBC concerns news coverage, and is part of a wider criticism I have of the media as a whole. Namely that the old adage "never let the truth get in the way of a good story" is often all too apparent. Misleading overly-dramatic headlines, simplistic sound bites, cliché and sloppy reporting, all these things are a malaise affecting modern media. (Maybe journalists should spend more time reading George Orwell and less time watching CNN.)

Finally I would like to respond to something that has been advocated by some of the enemies of the BBC. Some parties, with blatant vested interests, have suggested that the BBC could become more like ABC in Australia. Having lived in Australia for two years, I have to say that this would be a cultural disaster of inconceivable proportions. The sheer dumbed-down, mindless, distorted, cultureless shambles that is Australian television is no model of best practice for any nation, let alone one with a proud tradition of broadcasting excellence. This suggestion should be treated with the contempt it deserves.

Please let's protect the values and the traditions of the BBC. We want a BBC that will enrich the lives of our children and of their children. It would be a national tragedy if we were to destroy or in any way handicap this hugely important asset.

Yours  
Tristan Collier